Daily Report

Latin America

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Monday
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FBIS-LAT-91-092 *13 May 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Cuba Sends Delegation to Antinuclear Conference

FL1005125091 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Representatives of 23 Latin American nations are meeting in Mexico City. These all have pledged to keep Latin America free of nuclear arms. For the first time, Cuba has sent a delegation to the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America. The word proscription means the banning of.

Member countries are hoping that Cuba, Belize, Guyana, and several Caribbean nations will one day join them officially.

C.A. Legislature Presidents Meeting Opens

PA1005145791

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish at 1529 GMT on 9 May begins live coverage of the inauguration ceremony of the 3d Congress of Legislative Assembly Presidents of Central America and Panama, from the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua.

Alfredo Cesar, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, begins speaking at 1530 GMT. He greets the legislative presidents and their representatives "on behalf of the Nicaraguan people." He declares that "the general objective of the congress is to analyze, from the legislative viewpoint, the aspects pertaining to the installation of the Central American parliament, as well as the perspectives and problems of regional integration." This, he further states, will contribute to resolving the problems which are common to Central America countries. Cesar reviews the history of the Central American integrationist efforts and notes that, despite these afforts, "social inequalities persist." Cesar continues by noting that the "signing of the Esquipulas I Declaration on 25 May 1986, gives rise to the idea of Central American unity having the parliament as its fundamental point." He concludes by stating the functions of the Central American parliament, citing among others: "To serve as forum for the discussion of the common political, economic, social, security, and cultural issues; to promote the processes of integration and cooperation among Central American countries; as well as to promote peaceful coexistence and Central American security."

At 1539 GMT, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, president of the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly begins speaking and declares: "I want to express the deep gratitude of the government and people of Costa Rica to the government and people of Nicaragua for the selfless, effective, and altruistic assistance given to Costa Rica after the 22 April earthquake that hit the Atlantic region." Rodriguez also reviews the history of Central American integrationist efforts and thanks other Central American countries for helping Costa Rica and Panama after the recent earthquake.

Representing Roberto Angulo, president of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, Nelson Melendez Echeverria begins speaking at 1543 GMT. After greeting participants at the meeting, Melendez notes that the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly will be responsible for "promptly ratifying reforms proposed by the previous legislature toward the reestablishment of peace, national reconciliation, and the reunification of Salvadoran society."

After saluting participants at the meeting, Alonso Fernandez Guardia, Panama's Legislative Assembly president, begins speaking at 1546 GMT and declares: "We hope to jointly find ways that will allow us to defend our peoples from the drug trafficking scourge and its catastrophic consequences." Fernandez concludes by noting the necessity to regulate the use of the existing natural resources, pollution control, and other environmental measures.

Guatemalan Congress President Ana Catalina Soberanis begins speaking at 1549 GMT and she notes that Central America is advancing toward peace. Soberanis urges Central American countries to work toward the integration of the region and concludes that she hopes this meeting will be fruitful.

Honduran Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas begins speaking at 1553 GMT and notes the progress made in the two previous Legislative Assembly Presidents meetings in Honduras and Panama. He states: "If Central America hopes to obtain an important position in today's world after the fall of totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe and the events in the Middle East, we have to unite our voices in order to be heard." Irias Navas adds: "Even after the integration is attained, it will not be easy to enter European markets in 1992, or overcome the protectionist barriers imposed by other industrialized nations." He concludes by noting Europe's success in undertaking integration, despite its different races, cultures, languages, and traditions.

Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo begins speaking at 1559 GMT and he reviews the main accomplishments of the Nicaraguan Government during the first year of the Chamorro administration. Lacayo says that the main accomplishment has been the attainment of peace in Nicaragua. Lacayo further states that "our second year in government will focus on achieving the economic stabilization of Nicaragua and easing the suffering of the poor." Lacayo expresses his government's desire "to permanently join the Central American parliament to consolidate regional unity; work toward free trade in all areas of production; and work together in the drug struggle." Lacayo concludes by welcoming all participants at the meeting "in the name of President Violeta Chamorro."

Mexico, Caricom Sign Technical Accords

FL0905172091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1444 GMT 9 May 91

[Report by Rickev Singh]

[Text] Merida, Mexico, May 9, CANA - Mexico has moved further to strengthen its relations with the Caribbean Community countries with the signing here of two new agreements providing for technical cooperation in various fields.

The agreements involve approximately U.S. 766,000 dollars in grant funds to be made available through the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] from Mexico's contributions to the Bank's Special Development Funds (SDF). Since joining the CDB in 1982, Mexico has contributed a total of U.S. 15 million dollars to the SDF, including a just-pledged U.S. 5 million dollars for the Fund's 1992-95 replenishment.

Signing the two agreements—similar to ones signed in the Bahamas a year ago at the CDB's 20th Anniversary Meeting—were Mexico's minister of finance and public credit, Dr. Pedro Aspe Armella; CDB's president, Sir Neville Nicholls; Caricom secretary general, Roderick Rainford; and vice chancellor of the University of the West Indies [UWI], Alister McIntyre. The agreements were signed as part of the programme arranged for the CDB's 21st annual Head of Governors meeting.

McIntyre told CANA that since the signing of the first Technical Cooperation Agreement between the UWI and Mexico, he has had a number of inquiries from other Latin American countries which are now showing interest in developing similar areas of cooperation with the region's university.

Both McIntyre and Rainford spoke at the signing ceremony of the importance of language training, and in particular Spanish, for the English-speaking Caribbean. McIntyre, who has already used about U.S. 400,000 dollars provided for in the technical cooperation agreements, said that the Anglophone Caribbean simply could not continue to be 'a mono-lingual enclave in a multi-lingual region' like Latin America and the Caribbean.

A smiling Rainford assured his audience of government and bank officials and representatives of the media at the signing event that when he again speaks with them at a similar occasion it would be in Spanish.

A batch of some 30 students from all three campuses of the UWI will be sent to Mexico during the year for skills training, in addition to a dozen teachers, to be better prepared for teaching Spanish. In addition to the training programme proposed for the UWI, there is to be research and skills training in the field of agriculture, including a mini dairy-cows-breeding scheme. It aims at curbing the heavy loss in foreign exchange of about U.S. 500 million dollars in annual dairy, meat, and livestock feeds import bill.

Assistance in the expansion of Caricom's mango production for export to the European Market, as well as provisions for banana shipping, are also part of the technical cooperation package of the Mexico-UWI agreement. Under the Mexico-Caricom agreement, the technical cooperation would involve six components:

- a study of transportation links between Mexico and the Caribbean region;
- a study of the rationalisation of maritime education and training in the Caricom region;
- formulation of an agro-industry development programme for the Caricom region.
- a study of the alternative products or by-products from sugar cane;
- a language-training programme for regional agencies; and
- a study of the development of, and trade in, services in the organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

The objectives of this kind of technical assistance, it was explained, are to encourage and promote, with the support of Mexican institutions and experts, 'activities that will contribute to the enhancement of skills and capabilities in key sectors and other areas of critical importance to the economies of CDB member countries and to institutions of the Caribbean region.'

Andean Presidents To Ratify Machu Picchu Accord

PA1105201591 Paris AFP in Spanish 1901 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Caracas, 11 May (AFP)—The Andean presidents (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) will ratify in Caracas the Machu Picchu Agreements signed in Peru, creating a common market by 31 December 1991, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said 11 May.

The summit will be held in Caracas on 17 and 18 May. There will also be a technical preparatory meeting in the capital from 13-16 May.

Recalling his trip to Colombia this week, Perez added that he and his Colombian colleague Cesar Gaviria agreed to include environmental problems on the summit agenda in preparation for the environmental conference scheduled to be held in Brazil in 1992.

In addition, Perez said he supports the decision to create the Andean parliament by means of a direct vote, saying that "it is a creative and progressive process" and that the institution "will have more authority" and its decisions will carry "more weight."

Perez said this ratifies the need to create "the great Latin American nation" and that "Latin Americans can optimistically and clearly say that the process for the region's integration has been initiated."

Cuba

Membership in Nuclear Weapons Ban Group Approved

FL1005132991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Cuba joined the Organization To Ban Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean [OPANAL] on 9 May in Mexico City as a permanent observer of its work. Cuba's entry was approved by a unanimous decision of the general conference of this continental organization, which has been holding its 12th regular session since 8 May in Mexico City. Jose Fernandez de Cossio, Cuba's representative to OPANAL and ambassador to Mexico, told the meeting that our country has supported initiatives to eliminate nuclear weapons and the strictly peaceful use of atomic energy in many fora.

ALIDE, National Bank Sign Cooperation Agreement

FL1005145291 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] The 21st regular meeting of the general assembly of the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development [ALIDE] finished its working sessions in our capital with the signing of a cooperation agreement with the National Bank of Cuba. The document, signed by ALIDE President Jesus Villamizar and Hector Rodriguez Llompart, the minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, confirmed our ties with this important regional economic organization. Both sides noted, in brief remarks, the successful completion here in Havana of the ALIDE meeting. It should be added that Hector Rodriguez Llompart, the minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, and other officials of the Cuban banking establishment were presented with ALIDE recognition medals.

In a document that was distributed at the end of the session it was emphasized that the ALIDE fulfilled its goal of making an analysis of the financial situation and perspective of the economies in the region over the period of the 1990's. Specifically, the session noted the important role of development banks in the phase of adjustment and stabilization of economies, through the renewed role the current decade is imposing upon them, by orienting and stimulating the mobilization of financial resources and complementary services toward productive investments. The text of the final report specifies, in another section, the importance of regional and international integration and cooperation for Latin American development, strategies, and modes of operation. The assembly approved Madrid as the site for the 1992 ALIDE meeting, from 2 to 5 June.

Mexico Signs Agreement on Scientific Cooperation

FL1105181091 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1625 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Fausto Alsati Araisa the Mexican director general of science and technology, will sign the document of the 13th Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Cuba and Mexico today in Havana. The document will be signed for Cuba by Ernesto Melendez, the minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. In statements to the press, Mr. Alsati recalled the ties of cooperation Cuba and Mexico have kept up for years, and he evaluated the results of these ties as satisfactory.

Encouraging Illegal Departures Denied

FL1105181191 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1625 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Cuban Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz denied on 10 May that the authorities are encouraging illegal departures from the country, and asserted that in fact these actions are incited by some sectors in the United States as part of their hostile policy towards the Cuban revolution. De la Cruz said in statements to PRENSA LATINA in Mexico that Cuba's emigration policy is now more flexible and is based on the principle that only those who want to stay should stay in the country.

Havana CDR's Begin Restructuring Process

FL1005175691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] More than 17,000 assemblies of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] at the zone and municipal levels are being held in Havana to implement the changes in the CDR's structures, methods, and work styles. This process of implementing the new structures consists of reducing the number of cadres, in view of the experience accumulated in how the CDR's function, in order to concentrate among fewer leaders the monitoring and execution of CDR tasks in line with our revolution's current demands. It is expected that the activists' movement will be expanded and the major tasks—defense, revolutionary vigilance, and support for the country's economic activities—will be intensified.

[Begin recording of Division General Sixto Batista, CDR national secretary] I think it is right for us to explain here that during the discussion of the call for the fourth party congress, there were many of our organizations there, at plenary meetings of the municipal and provincial party committees and our leadership, who spoke about the number of officials in the base-level organization. The proposals about structures have been approved now, and we are beginning to implement them throughout the country.

There should be from three to five cadres, and each CDR should decide this, within this framework, from three to five. Here you have agreed on four. Fine; that is more or

less the average that is appearing throughout the country. But in addition, this is not only to affect people less. It is because there is no reason for more. With four there are enough to handle the tasks, and the rest of the CDR's tasks are not only for the officials. They belong to all the members of the organization. We must fight so that this will work well. [applause] [end recording]

Country Joins Interregional Technical Committee

FL1005132491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Cuba will become secretary of a technical committee on sugar of the Pan-American Commission on Technical Standards [COPANT]; the COPANT council is currently meeting at the Convention Center. This decision is part of COPANT's efforts to promote economic integration in the region, a fundamental goal of the meeting in Havana. The specialists agree that standardization can (?increase) the competitiveness of Latin American products in trade within the region and in other areas of the world. It has also been said in the discussions that standardization, metrology, and quality certification for products will contribute to breaking down barriers to trade in the region and strengthening Latin American cooperation.

Havana Assembly Approves Special Period Measures

FL1105115091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] A broad plan of measures for the special period in peacetime has been approved by the Havana City Provincial Assembly of the People's Government, which held a special session. It was attended by Julio Camacho Aguilera, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Juan Escalona Reguera, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. The plenary session analyzed a program that includes alternatives for fuel and electricity conservation, better use of personnel and land, and increasing and developing the production of articles in demand by the populace. In his closing words, Provincial Assembly President Pedro Chavez called for intense work to welcome properly the athletes and tourists who will visit us for the 11th Pan-American Games.

Castro Frees Dominican Man After 18 Years

PA1105150691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1748 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Santo Domingo, 9 May (EFE)—Attorney Ramon Antonio Veras has informed EFE that the Cuban Government today released Dominican citizen Enemencio de la Cruz Martinez who has been in a Havana jail since 1973, when he was sentenced to 25 years in prison for alleged espionage activities against the Cuban revolution.

From Santiago de los Caballeros, the Dominican lawyer told EFE that the Cuban authorities had given him the information by telephone and had requested that he travel to Havana so that De la Cruz Martinez could be released.

Veras added that he thanked Fidel Castro for the Dominican people and for himself for Castro's "beautiful gesture of equanimity, understanding, and solidarity" for ordering the man's freedom.

De la Cruz Martinez was jailed while preparing a guerrilla force in Cuba against the regime of Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer, together with the late Colonel Francisco Alberto Camano Deno. Today, Balaguer is back in power.

The lawyer recalled that Balaguer, through his foreign minister, requested that Enemencio de la Cruz Martinez be released on 2 May.

On 29 April, Dominican journalists Felix Reyna, director of the "Rahintel in the Television News" program; Nelson Encarnacion, of the EL NACIONAL newspaper; Rafael Santana, of the LISTIN DIARIO daily; and Maximo Diaz, an independent journalist, asked Castro for De la Cruz's freedom, because they believed that he was ill.

Veras announced that he will travel to Cuba in the next few days to accompany Enemencio de la Cruz Martinez back to Santo Domingo.

Dominican Labor Leader Views Alleged U.S. Plot

PA1105135091 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 May 91

[Statement by Dominican labor leader Juan Jose Vargas in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] U.S. imperialism has chosen our country, the Dominican Republic, to turn it into a tool to be used according to the plans of the Cuban worms who live in Miami and the CIA. The idea is to create friction between the Dominican people and government and the Cuban people and government.

The fact that Cuban athletes who were at the Cuban circus were inexplicably attacked shortly before we came to Cuba is no accident. When the incident was investigated, Comrade Hueb [not further identified] was able to determine that the attackers were [word indistinct] agents. A group of Cuban female doctors who were participating in another event in our country were also attacked.

We know that there are plans to create a situation of hostility to prejudice the Dominican people and the government of President Balaguer, especially, against the Cuban Government. The Dominican Government has established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and everybody is reasoning that if relations have been established with the Soviet Union, why not establish them with Cuba.

The Dominican Government may have this disposition, but the North Americans, in the framework of their line in favor of tightening the siege around Cuba and to implement their plan to annihilate Cuba, have adopted this plan.

The labor union sector and the political and revolutionary sectors—the organized sectors—of our country will militantly oppose this plot. We will defend with our teeth what we have left: the revolutionary reserves, the reserve of socialism in America: Revolutionary Cuba.

Conflicts Between Polish Unions, Government Noted

FL1105005891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Relations between the Polish president and [words indistinct] Solidarity trade union were in crisis today. Union members threatened to stage a national protest against the (?announced) economic reform program.

Solidarity says the Polish president is directly responsible for the worsening of the crisis including an increase in unemployment and prices and salary freezes in the state sector.

The goal of the return of this union to the field of labor protests through strikes is to limit its rival, Polish Labor Alliance which has a larger membership, from gaining ground and to show it is independent from the political power.

Walesa scheduled a meeting for 17 May with members of the government, labor representatives, and other Polish political forces on the economic situation in the country.

Panamanian Asylum Seeker Travels to Cuba

FL1105115191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] The Panamanian asylum seekers in the Cuban, Peruvian, and Mexican Embassies in the capital of Panama left that country on 10 May, after having obtained the appropriate safe-conducts 17 months after the U.S. invasion in December 1989. Former legislator Luis Gomez, former National Bank president Rafael Arosemena, and former military officers Heraclides Sucre and Gonzalo Gonzalez left for other countries from Tocumen Airport. A Mexican airplane carried Arosemena to Mexico City, while the other three Panamanians traveled to Caracas on a Venezuelan Airlines flight. Luis Gomez will continue his trip to Cuba today, while Sucre and Gonzalez will go to Peru.

Eight Mexicans Jailed for Black Marketeering

PA1205032891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2051 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Havana, 10 May (NOTIMEX)—Cuban authorities have been holding eight Mexicans, charged with trafficking foreign currency on the black market, under arrest for more than 10 days. So far there has been no report on what penalty the prisoners will be dealt.

A Mexican lady, Nancy Cazalis, sister of Juan Manuel Cazalis and wife of Julio Alejandro de la Mora—both under arrest—today told NOTIMEX that the "precautionary measures" to be adopted against the accused will not be known until Monday.

Cazalis and De la Mora, both from Merida, Mexico, were arrested in Havana along with Alejandro Maldonado when police seized 47,000 Cuban pesos (more than $47,000 at the official exchange rate) from them. They had apparently obtained the money on the "black market."

The "precautionary measures" would allow the accused to leave prison on bail, or to be placed under protective custody.

In the Cuban capital there is a large black market in foreign currency, where the dollar's value is up to ten times the officially quoted exchange rate.

According to Mexican diplomatic sources, three of the arrested Mexicans are women, also from Merida. The women were arrested together with two other Mexicans and apparently this group has no link with Cazalis or De la Mora.

The authorities seized 160,000 pesos, obtained on the black market, from this second group of Mexicans which comprised Ivone Tamayo, Maria Luisa Vazquez Tamayo, Maria Marlene Aldaz, Hector Campos, and Jose Esteban Amaro.

The eight Mexicans are in a Havana prison. Most of them are under 25. Maria Luisa Vazquez Tamayo and the two men in her group have already made arrangements to pay a 10,000-pesos bail, but their relatives have not yet come forth to put up the money.

Cayman Islands

CDB Issues Economic Report on Islands

FL0905205291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1823 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 9, CANA—The Cayman Islands faces the prospect of economic growth, down sharply in the last few years, stabilising "at current levels," the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] has said. In its 1990 annual report, the Barbados-based bank reported economic growth had slowed to an estimated 8 per cent last year. It said that in the medium term the various sub-sectors of the Cayman Islands' financial sector were expected to mature.

Following is the bank's report on the islands:

"Economic growth in Cayman Islands slowed in 1990 for the third consecutive year. After reaching 15.6 per

cent in 1987, 15.2 per cent in 1988, and 10.6 per cent in 1989, real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth is estimated at 8 per cent in 1990.

This slowdown followed the completion of three major hotels over the 1988-90 period. The annual rate of price increases accelerated from 6 per cent at the end of 1989 to 8 per cent in October 1990.

Tourist arrivals expanded significantly during 1990 after declining by 4.1 per cent in 1989. Up to the end of October, air arrivals totalled 208,600 or 23.8 per cent above the level for the 10 months to October 1989. On the other hand, cruise ship passenger arrivals declined 15 per cent to 290,200 for the first 10 months as tourism officials moved to regulate cruise ship activity so as to ease congestion of traffic in Georgetown.

An improvement in the standard of amenities was reported, with all hotels receiving certification on first inspection this year. In 1989 several hotels received only conditional licences pending improvements. The tourism department tightened inspection procedures and increased the number of inspectors with a view to instituting quarterly rather than annual inspections. The department is also planning to undertake preparation of a long-term tourism development plan.

Financial activity moderated considerably in 1990. There was a net addition of four new banks during the first three quarters of the year, compared with an average of 14 per cent between 1985 and 1989. This performance reflected the official policy of consolidation rather than expansion. With 46 of the 50 largest international banks already in Cayman Islands, the aim is to maintain the environment which keeps these banks in the islands rather than seek to attract smaller, newer, and less known institutions.

The uncertainties inherent in the industry were underscored during the year when the Danish banks closed their offices following changes in legislation which allowed them to conduct offshore business in Denmark.

In the insurance sub-sector, 20 licences were cancelled resulting in a net decline in the number of companies to 353 up to the end of November. This was the second consecutive year of decline in the number of licensed companies and reflects the weakness in the U.S. insurance market since 1988.

The strengthening which market analysts have been anticipating since late 1989 still has not materialised. On the other hand, international company business continued to expand with more than 3,500 companies being added to the registry in 1990, compared with less than 2,000 in 1989. Almost 60 per cent of companies registered in the Cayman Islands are exempt companies.

Construction activity in 1990 was sustained at least at 1989 levels with the emphasis on apartment/condominium and residential construction. For the first three quarters of 1990 approved applications totalled 559 valued at 135 million dollars, compared with 475 valued at 106 million dollars (U.S.) for the same period of 1989. The lag-time between approval and start-up is about eight months.

Production of vegetables and beef increased in 1990, although the farmers' markets continued to be constrained by lack of space. Improved accounting and payment procedures encouraged more farmers to channel their produce through the facility. Overall, the quality of produce was high and prices competitive with imported produce. During the year, the agriculture development plan which was initiated in 1989 was completed and tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's production programme was centred on field trials of several varieties of pawpaw, green peppers, and other vegetables. The department is also seeking to improve the quality of its extension services through training of its personnel.

For 1990, central government's current surplus was budgeted at 11.8 million dollars (U.S.) and capital expenditure at 19.8 million dollars. However, because of cost overruns there was a current deficit which was financed through a transfer of funds from general reserve and through borrowing. The current deficit totalled 2 million dollars in 1990 with revenue of 100.4 million dollars and current expenditure of 102.4 million dollars.

Current revenue collection in 1989 was 100.5 million dollars and expenditure was 81.1 million dollars. Estimated capital expenditure totalled 16.3 million dollars in 1990, up from 15.4 million dollars in 1989.

The medium-term prospects for Cayman Islands is for economic growth to stabilise at current levels as the various sub-sectors of the financial sector attain maturity. The challenge to the current good management of the economy is to prepare the country for a more competitive global environment and a more complex domestic society."

Haiti

Aristide Reviews Three-Month Progress

FL1105163091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 8 May 91

[Following item alternates between French and Creole languages. Passages in Creole are italized.]

[Text] President Aristide, accompanied by his ministers, gave a television interview last night in which he committed himself to promoting political dialogue, calling on all Haitians to support national reconstruction. He is seeking Parliament's approval for a 25-gourde minimum wage, and appealed to the nation's bourgeoisie to invest in the country. Details from reporter Clarens:

[Begin recording] [Clarens] During a live interview on national television with the president of the Republic

and the Council of Ministers, President Aristide committed himself to opening avenues of power to other political parties, and to reinforcing open dialogue by reaching out to each Haitian in an effort to rebuild the country.

I am the president of each Haitian, he said on TNH [National Television of Haiti]. Jean-Bertrand Aristide remains open to criticism, but only when criticism is well-founded and not reflecting the narrow interests of a minority. The head of state also expressed a determination to take the democratic path, respecting the laws of the Republic, laws which must sanction and punish those who contest the state's authority. This brings us directly to the president's evaluation of his first three months in office.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide intends to base the national economy on the plan developed by his governmental team. It will be an economy grounded in Haitian reality, and progressing through the support of a national bourgeoisie investing in the country. The president stressed that the national economy under the Aristide-Preval government will not be dictated from abroad. He was very definite on this point. He went on to explain that an economic plan cannot be executed when producers owe the state several millions dollars. He named, among them, contractors and firms such as La Brasserie Nationale [National Brewing Company], La Brasserie La Couronne, and HASCO [Haitian-American Sugar Company].

[Aristide] *When we speak of economics, we do not pretend to be the only ones who know, nor do we claim to be experts. But we are certain that when the people listen to us, when the poor ones in the mountains listen, they understand what we are saying because they have their own way of discussing economy. It is through great effort that they struggle to live. We will use plain speech, not economic jargon imposed on us from abroad, so the people will be able to understand our economic plan.*

I can give a clear example: How good can an economic plan be when the Brasserie La Couronne owes the state 535,619.66 gourdes? Can you believe that Brasserie Nationale owes the state 4,999,956.07 gourdes; that FABNAC [National Shoes Factory] owes the state 9,189,844.97 gourdes; and finally, so we will not be too long, can you believe that HASCO will owe the state 15,625,625.90 gourdes by the end of the month? There is an obvious game which must be played for our economic plan to become a reality. The law is the law. When someone owes money, he must pay it. If we do not collect what is owed us, we will not be able to face the economic crisis, regardless of how good an economic plan we have.

[Clarens] Second part of the 90-day evaluation: The president remains faithful to his commitment to the people; and faithful to his government's resolution to fight corruption and smuggling.

Haiti is at the moment, according to Jean-Bertrand, the hope of the Caribbean and of Latin America; it is necessary to protect this flame of hope to make democracy grow. The president also promised to open up dialogue with the other political parties.

[Aristide] *Many people are upset: those who were doing the smuggling and find they can no longer squeeze the milk, those who were financing the zenglendos and are now having difficulty in doing so. Today, I myself, as head of state, president of every Haitian, have the opportunity after these three months to reach out to each Haitian on behalf of the government and say how much we want those sectors which are not happy; to emphasize that the law will help me rebuild the country; that the political parties which want more dialogue, the deputies and senators who want more dialogue, all sectors that want more dialogue, will get more dialogue. I am calling for this on my own behalf, and on behalf of the government, so that when you make your evaluation after the next three months, you will realize three times more results, multiplied by three times more, multiplied by three times more, thanks to three times more dialogue.*

[Clarens] Foreign aid and cooperation: the president of the Republic repeats that he does not offer his hand to foreigners, nor does he wait for aid to come. He voices his belief that Haitians should learn to invest in their country for the sake of national development. The aid promised by the Americans, for example, will be accepted only if the principles of integrity and dignity-in-cooperation are respected.

[Aristide]. *I will not begin by asking whether the American Government will come through with aid. Rather, I will begin by asking whether the Haitian people will agree to invest what they own, what they are, in the development of their country. I ask them to open their eyes and look at the entire world, at all their friends on the international scene, including the American Government and the American people, to see if relations with them will be respectful, if there will be dignity. Until now, they officially agreed to provide economic assistance through USAID. But later, once we prove our government's prestige by functioning in a manner unlike previous Haitian Governments which did not have the ability to remain honest or transparent, and which were in favor of receiving American aid under any circumstances; later, as we, Haitian Government, show little by little what honesty, transparency, and justice mean, we will not have to depend on the Americans in case their promises do not become a reality.*

When we speak, we keep our promises; when they speak, we hope they keep their word. They said before the elections that they would recognize the elections' results, and officially, they recognize them. Now they say they will provide economic aid; they officially say it. In actual practice, we hope that it will take place. We also consider it respect when we do not presume or condemn, but rather, take what they say with a grain of salt.

[Clarens] Another point in current news is the hunger in the Northwestern Department. Aristide remains consistent with his statement of 1 May: If I had to speak again,

I would make the same speech, he said. Finally, he hopes that his proposal for increasing the minimum wage to 25 gourdes will be adopted by Parliament. [end recording]

MDN Leader De Ronceray Criticizes Government

FL1105181291 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] MDN [Mobilization for National Development] leader, Hubert de Ronceray, has bitterly criticized the Jean-Bertrand Aristide government in a statement he made this week. According to De Ronceray, the three months of the government's administration constitutes an utter catastrophe and, besides, he says, it is a communist dictatorship that is gaining a foothold in the country, a situation that MDN completely condemns.

[Begin recording] [De Ronceray] Just 90 days after 7 February, Haiti's calamities have gotten worse. The government does not know where to start, nor does it know where it is going. It is hostile; it is threatening enlightened people with pere lebrun [necklacing with burning tires], whether they are political leaders, businessmen, military men, or others.

Meanwhile, the Haitian economy is breathing its last breath. There is no electric current; factories have closed down; businesses have closed; workers have been fired; state employees have been fired; food prices are getting higher and higher: poor people cannot buy ground corn; they cannot buy rice; they cannot buy peas; they cannot buy oil. Poor people cannot buy soap; they cannot buy cement. The people are crying out for help in the streets. But the government says it is because the people love it that they are crying out.

In the countryside there are no more section chiefs. The left-footed terrorists [teroris pye goch yo] are now free to [words indistinct] as they want in the rural areas. Extreme poverty, fear, trash, and hopeless people begging charity fill the cities and [words indistinct].

MDN rules do not allow it to accept a left-footed dictatorship [okenn diktati pye goch] in Haiti. MDN wants a government with a clear social reform plan, a government that respects human life, that respects freedom of expression as stated in the Constitution, a government that acknowledges the rights of all citizens, a government that will not isolate the country, but will put Haiti in its place among all the countries on earth. [end recording]

Let us remind you that Hubert de Ronceray was obliged to leave the country with his whole family after his house was burnt down during the 7 January 1991 coup attempt. At that time, a segment of the population accused him of having entered into an alliance with Roger Lafontant on the eve of 16 December to stand in the way of the government that is now in power.

APN Strikes; Preval Intervention Fails

FL1105181391 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] National Port Authority [APN] employees have gone on strike today. We are going to join Mobile Unit 15 at the Port-au- Prince wharf for an idea of the atmosphere there.

[Begin recording] [Mobile Unit 15] Yes, actually, Kettelie, all APN employees have unanimously stopped work. According to what they say, the stoppage could last a long time.

Prime Minister Rene Preval intervened a while ago. He came to the wharf to negotiate with the strikers, but they did not want to listen to him. Almost all the employees wanted to talk at the same time, and there was a lot of shoving and pushing. It was with much difficulty that the prime minister managed to escape and without achieving any concrete results.

In a very brief statement made to Radio Metropole, he said he had proposed that the employees resume working. This suggestion went unnoticed, however, because the strikers were so angry they could not hear what the prime minister said.

The prime minister is now driving away. He just left for his office, probably in the Ministry of Defense [corrects himself], the Ministry of the Interior. For the moment, everything has stopped on the wharf.

What are the APN demands? They demand a reasonable schedule [words indistinct]: from 1100 GMT to 2000 GMT, but no longer. They will not work beyond 2000 GMT.

The atmosphere is therefore charged at the wharf where all the employees have unanimously stopped work. The prime minister intervened, but the gathering was unruly. So he left and returned to his office. But the employees are still on strike at APN.

We are on the spot. We will return with more details this evening during the the Radio Metropole newscast, Soir Actualite [Evening News]. Thank you, studio. [end recording]

APN Demands Preval Dismissal

FL1105184591 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1145 GMT 10 May 91

[Report on news conference held by APN Employees Union at the premises of the National Federation of the Unionized Workers, FOS, in Port-au-Prince on 8 May 1991; live and recorded]

[Excerpt] The APN Employees Union solicited the dismissal of Prime Minister Rene Preval from the head of the Avalanche government in a news conference held this Wednesday [day as heard] at the FOS premises. Moreover, the APN Employees Union asked for the reinstatement of the 585 [number as heard] dismissed

employees and solicited the dismissal of Prime Minister Rene Preval as soon as possible. Furthermore, the employees of this same institution stopped working in order to demand the dismissal of the current manager. Let us listen to the report of Dumesle Richard on that score, [rephrases] the account of Dumesle Richard.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Dumesle Richard] The dismissed APN employees held a news conference this Thursday [day as heard] at the FOS premises. Making an analysis reflecting the unemployment rate in Haiti, Cerisier Daniel said that the promises of Prime Minister Preval are far from being in accordance with reality. Cerisier wondered how the Prime Minister will create jobs in a country where the unemployment rate is already very high. Moreover, he wondered.... [changes thought] He even went so far as to ask for the dismissal of the prime minister who—according to him—has not proven that he is up to this post. According to Cerisier Daniel, the secretary general of the union, Rene Preval constitutes a national shame. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Guerrillas Release Report on 9 May Operation

PA1005191191 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0020 GMT 10 May 91

[Military report issued by the Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in Chalatenango on 9 May]

[Text] Today, 9 May, at 0200, members of the National Army for Democracy [END] initiated a regional operation called: Commander Jesus Rojas and Other Heroes, We Swear To Win. It consisted of the following maneuvers:

1. There was an attack on the JR [expansion unknown] Battalion from Military Detachment No. 2, which has militarized the 5 November Dam installations. The attack was centered on the command post, transmission installations, camps, the fuel tanks, and other positions. In addition, we carried out artillery attacks on the high-power transformers at the power station. As a result of this attack, we have the following figures: 21 casualties inflicted on Military Detachment No. 2, including 8 dead and 13 wounded. Two officers were among the dead. In addition a high-power transformer was destroyed and another was damaged. Partial damage was inflicted on a floodgate. The fuel tanks were set on fire, and the command and communication post was partially destroyed.

2. At 0300, we carried out an attack on Military Detachment No. 1 and cavalry positions in Chalatenango, in the following places: Chiapas, Metayate, and Canas. As a result, 11 soldiers were wounded.

3. Our forces took over a stretch of the Northern Junction Road, near El Barrancon. A rally with over 500 persons was held in which the inflexible attitude of the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government and the Armed Forces in the negotiations was detailed.

4. We took control of the following towns and distributed propaganda leaflets: (Cancasque), Concepcion Quezaltepeque, Nombre de Jesus, Comalapa, San Ignacio, La Palma, La Reina, Agua Caliente, Dulce Nombre de Maria, and San Francisco Morazan.

5. We sabotaged four utility poles on the Northern Junction Road near El Coyolito. Two other poles were sabotaged between El Paraiso Barracks and Chalatenango.

6. We distributed propaganda leaflets in the following cantons: Rio Chiquito, (Las Aradas), El Centro, La Cumbre, La Granadilla, Los Planes, El Rosario, and Santa Rosa.

We warn the most backward sectors of the country, who are enemies of peace and true democracy, that as long as they maintain their antipatriotic, unpopular, and inflexible position in the negotiations, there will not be a cease-fire. As long as the armed forces continue launching large operations in our areas of control, the END has the duty to defend and carry out offensive operations in the enemy's rearguard. We will not rest until we achieve the demilitarization of society and a real democracy.

[signed] Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front

Cristiani on Bringing FMLN Into Police Force

PA1305025391 San Salvador DIARIO EL MUNDO in Spanish 10 May 91 p 1

[Article by Rene Hurtado]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said in a news conference yesterday at the Legislative Assembly that the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] integration into the new National Civil Police—to be organized according to the Mexican agreements—and the reforms approved by the previous Legislative Assembly still depend on the outcome of the Armed Forces issue.

The FMLN established—with regard to public security—that to reach a cease-fire "their activists must be the foundation of the new civil police organization in the areas under their control. In the disputed areas, the rebels proposed that the townspeople themselves be part of the new police force..."

In this regard, President Cristini said: "What is mentioned there is their integration, and this is still pending under the issue of the Armed Forces. I believe that all the Civil Police members—according to our criteria—should be evaluated and pass a test prior to integration. I think that the integration mechanisms are still being analyzed. I cannot say right now who will integrate the Civil Police force and who will not. Basically, what has been agreed on is that the Civil Police will be separate from the defense sector and will be integrated into the civilian sector."

According to the FMLN, to reach a cease-fire agreement "it is necessary to make space for democracy," and that "all the military forces be withdrawn from the urban areas together with their simultaneous reduction."

Presidency Minister on Possibility of Cease-Fire

PA1005172991 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 May 91

[Report by Ernesto Rivas; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Oscar Santamaria, presidency minister and head of the government delegation to the talks, said it is still possible to reach a cease-fire in a short time. He said the only thing needed is a true commitment from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], as the government remains prepared to end the fighting as

soon as possible. He said the FMLN should act based on the accord signed in Mexico, which means a reduction in the violence.

[Santamaria] "Stepping up the violence is not in line with the spirit of the agreements. We hope that the FMLN will reflect and realize that the people's expectations of peace must be ultimately supported by a different attitude."

Santamaria noted that there is no justification for the guerrrilla's campaign of sabotaging the electrical system. The FMLN has recently stepped up the sabotage, within the framework of a campaign entitled: Let's Stop the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Legal Maneuvering To Sabotage the Negotiations [Alto a las maniobras legalistas de Arena para sabotear las negociaciones].

[Santamaria] "I do not think there is any manipulation of the assembly. On the contrary, the assembly has reaffirmed the commitment made in Mexico. Let us recall that the assembly had pledged, through the political parties that went to Mexico, to pass the amendments. There is no change in the content of the amendments. Instead, the commitment of the political parties to support the peace process has been demonstrated. We do not see a justification for the FMLN attitude to escalate violence."

The official also said that despite the violence in the country, the cease fire could be a reality soon.

[Santamaria] "Agreements have been reached on aspects that are included in principle on the agenda and on matters that may be technical. Still pending are some politically related aspects that comprise what could be regarded as the framework for the cease-fire. We do see short-term possibilities of reaching a cease-fire. As a matter of fact, the willingness of the sides to move in this direction is contained in the Mexico Accord.

[Reporter] "Could this happen in the next meeting?

[Santamaria] "We think so. That is going to be the government stance. There is no reason to sideline the objective of discussing the cease-fire in the next meeting, and the government will propose it."

The official did not give a date for the next meeting or say where it will be held. He merely said it would be [words indistinct] May. He said the topic of the Armed Forces does not constitute a hindrance or problem in the negotiations, since it was said from the start that the military institution's dissolution would not be subject of discussion.

Ponce on FMLN Plan To Eliminate Air Force

PA1005175891 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 7 May 91 p 24

[Text] General Rene Emilio Ponce, defense and public security minister, stated yesterday during the ceremony to transfer command of the Salvadoran Air Force [FAS] to Colonel Hector Leonel Lobo Perez that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] is "daydreaming with the idea of destroying the FAS. If they want to do that, let them do it on the battlefield and not through international ploys or lies."

Gen. Ponce categorically stated the Armed Forces are a constitutional and permanent institution that cannot disappear under any circumstances, and so its structure cannot be the subject of negotiations because it is tasked with protecting the interests of the people and national sovereignty. The ranking officer added that the so-called leaders of the FMLN talk about promoting peace and use that pretext to make all sorts of demands but nothing indicates that their commitment to peace can be believed, since they are increasing terrorist operations of sabotage and destruction of the nation's economic infrastructure.

To cite examples of the FMLN's terrorist activities, he mentioned the recent sabotage against the electric power system, which has forced CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] to order six-hour energy rationing on a rotating basis because of the destruction of the primary lines.

CEL confirmed that in the past 15 days the FMLN destroyed 13 115,000-watt powerlines, plus other 46-watt subtransmission lines. The company also mentioned that 30 secondary distribution lines in different parts of the country were damaged. Last night, for example, the FMLN destroyed a primary powerline in Santa Lucia Canton, Ciudad Arce Jurisdiction; seven secondary powerlines in San Jeronimo Canton in Guazapa; and four more powerlines in Los Hoyos Canton, in Ilobasco, Cabanas.

PDC Concurs With Arena in Cease-Fire Demand

PA1005201491 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 8 May 91 p 3

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party, PDC, conditioned its support for ratification of the constitutional reforms at the Legislative Assembly to the signing of political and cease-fire agreements between the government and the guerrillas.

PDC leader Jose Ricardo Perdomo stated during a televised interview that his party had evaluated the situation and reached the conclusion that they would not favor any of the parties in conflict because this would give one of the sides a tactical advantage.

However, the politician said that in the future the PDC could side with the government or the guerrillas on other issues.

Until yesterday, one of the PDC's demands for participation in the board of directors of that state organization [not further identified] was the immediate ratification of the reforms.

For now, the PDC sides with the position held by the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, which conditions the ratification of the reforms to advances in the negotiation process.

Jorge Villacorta of the Democratic Convergence, considered that this position could obstruct the solution to the armed struggle.

The guerrillas have increased their sabotage of the power distribution system in the past weeks. The rebels have said that these actions are meant to speed the negotiation process.

UDN Demands Constitutional Reforms Approval

PA1005155891 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 May 91 p 51

[Text] The UDN [National Democratic Union] has demanded the constitutional reforms' immediate ratification to ensure the progress of the peace process.

In a communique sent to this newspaper, the UDN rejected the establishment of any conditions for ratification. On 30 May [date as published] President Cristiani said in a nationwide radio and television network that it is necessary for the new Legislative Assembly to wait a reasonable amount of time before ratifying the constitutional reforms, thereby giving the negotiators an advantage that will allow them to reach a cease-fire agreement.

The UDN adds "it is essential that the current Legislative Assembly ratify the constitutional reforms, which resulted from the negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]."

The UDN added that "the ratification should take place as soon as possible and without delay to ensure the progess of the negotiations and the attainment of peace, which the people so desire. Therefore, we reject the establishment of any conditions for the ratification."

According to the communique, the UDN maintains that it is the duty of all of the deputies in the new Legislative Assembly—especially the opposition deputies—to ratify the agreements and remain faithful to the pledge they made during the electoral campaign regarding the elimination of any stumbling block that could hinder the attainment of peace in El Salvador.

The UDN urged the opposition deputies to discuss and define the roles the political parties and coalitions will play in the current Legislative Assembly, thus facilitating joint actions and maintaining a consensus in the Salvadoran people's best interest.

FMLN Commentary Views Agreements as Victory

PA1305011191 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 May 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Negotiations: A Victory for the Entire Nation"]

[Text] Fascist sectors of the government and the Armed Forces have exerted pressures in an attempt to make the Mexico negotiations fail.

A few hours prior to the conclusion of the meeting, everything seemed to indicate that the efforts of the ultraright would succeed and that the agreements would be blocked. The ultraright wants to prolong the war thinking that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] will be militarily weakened and defeated within a year for lack of financial support, logistical problems, and in light of the international situation. These factors, as the government and the Armed Forces see it, are unfavorable to the FMLN.

We have said that the Mexico agreements were secured thanks to the flexibility and political ability of the FMLN. We presented a counterproposal that calls for reforms to the Constitution. The government found itself in a beleaguered position, unable to refuse to sign specific agreements. This was possible thanks to international pressure. We have seen how Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, pressured the Salvadoran Armed Forces into negotiating.

With the Mexico Declaration we have initiated a period for the unfolding of the negotiations and of the war. We have laid the definite bricks that will permit the transformation of society and its demilitarization and democratization. That is, there should be no more military people killing priests, engaging in electoral fraud, plodding in the mud of corruption, and eating up much of a budget that should go to health and education.

In Mexico we secured agreements aimed at depriving the Armed Forces High Command of the attributions and power it has used to impose itself over the rest of society.

The reforms to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the Supreme Court of Justice, among others, would open the possibility of creating pluralistic rules of the game that would grant all Salvadorans equal conditions to elect their government and to install a system of true justice in El Salvador.

The Court of Truth, which will investigate crimes of historic importance, represents an important step in the effort to punish guilty military personnel, and to put an end to impunity.

Other issues, such as land ownership, respect for the political and social organizations that exist in FMLN-controlled territory, and other important issues, are still pending.

Without representation in the National Assembly or in the government, the FMLN has achieved an unprecedented achievement. A small country, El Salvador, has forced the United States and a fascist government into negotiating a political solution. This means that because of the correlation of forces, the democratic and revolutionary sectors are beginning to govern from the battlefield trenches and transform the structures of society.

The negotiations have allowed the FMLN to appear as what it is: an authentic force that has deep historic roots. The FMLN is a serious, flexible, and mature political force that defends democracy.

Throughout the negotiations, which have been obstructed by the government, the FMLN has unmasked, exposed, and eroded the legitimacy of the so-called democracy that the Nationalist Republican Alliance represents.

We can say that the international situation is favorable to the forces wanting peace and democracy in El Salvador. At this moment the United States is not concerned with an alleged communist threat, and it is making efforts to find political solutions capable of stabilizing the region. The international situation does not favor militarism. The financial support of militarism, the financial support of the fascist sectors of the Armed Forces, is being cut off.

From statements made by some military personnel, by Pro-Peace and Work [Pro-Paz y Trabajo], by EL DIARIO DE HOY, and by other fascist sectors, we can deduce that they view the results of the negotiations as too big of a blow against their hegemonic whims about society, and that the fascist sectors of the Armed Forces are demoralized, immersed in a sea of confusion. From those fascist sectors we can expect reactions aimed at preventing fundamental changes in the country. It has already been noticed that they are carrying out offensive military actions at the war fronts so they can go to the forthcoming round of negotiations with an improved position of strength.

We can say that the Mexico Declaration is the result of the struggle being waged by the entire nation, by all the democratic sectors. The Mexico Declaration is, especially, the political result of the FMLN's 1989 and 1990 November offensives to make militarism bend.

The Army is with its back to the wall. The desperate statements that [Defense Minister General Rene Emilio] Ponce has made make this evident. Ponce has seen how his Air Force has been neutralized, how all his efforts to grab territory from the FMLN have been frustrated. The Armed Forces is cornered because the entire nation is pressuring the government into negotiating.

The Mexico Declaration has opened up the possibility of creating a national project that should serve to unite the nation, all the national sectors, including the private sector and even the military. They have realized that the FMLN project is broad and democratic and that we can reach a national agreement, with everybody making known their point of view to obtain a definite cease-fire based on specific political agreements.

The phase of pluralistic alliances, of alliances for peace and democracy, is approaching. All Salvadorans must participate in this effort for a national agreement. No one can stay out. Let us set cheap party politicking aside. Let us shun cheap politicking and create the strategic conditions for our future, for the new El Salvador we all want and deserve.

Guatemala

Soldiers Involved in Killing of U.S. Citizen

PA1105173991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1545 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 May (ACAN-EFE)—Nine Guatemalan soldiers have been accused of participating in the kidnapping and murder of American citizen Michael Devine, which took place on 8 June 1990 in the northern department of Peten, the Guatemalan Judge Advocate's Office annnounced today.

Two officers and seven Army specialists, two of them retired, were questioned based on statements made by the first seven people arrested in connection with this case, shortly after the murder of Devine, who owned a hotel in Peten.

The nine soldiers are in addition to the seven soldiers who were originally captured in Peten. The soldiers were taken to the Guatemalan capital, as were the documents pertaining to the case.

The official source said the first people who were arrested have declared their innocence, and they gave the names of the other nine soldiers, whom they accuse of kidnapping and later killing the U.S. citizen, who had been living in Guatemala for three years.

Last year, the "Devine case" led to disagreements between U.S. Ambassador Thomas Stroock and the former government of President Vinicio Cerezo. Devine's murder also led the U.S. Congress to suspend its military aid to Guatemala on 27 December 1990, aid which is still suspended.

Army Reports Guerrilla Clash, Pipeline Sabotage

PA1305025191 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1514 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 May (DPA)—The Guatemalan Army reported today that a clash took place between a military patrol and guerrillas about 40 km from Guatemala City. One soldier and one guerrilla were killed.

The clash took place near the Agua Volcano, a rugged area in San Jose Alotenango, southwest of Guatemala City, where guerrillas frequently operate.

This clash is one of many incidents reported in northern and western Guatemala, mainly in Peten and Quiche Departments, hundreds of kilometers from Guatemala City.

In Peten and Alta Verapaz Departments guerrillas sabotaged an oil pipeline, setting on fire a quantity of crude oil equal to about a day's consumption in Guatemala.

* Human Rights: Ombudsman Says 177 Murdered

91CA0112A Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 8 Apr 91 p 5

[Text] During the first two months of 1991, 172 murders were committed stated the GAM [Mutual Support Group], based on data from its Information Center. This figure is larger than for the same period in 1990, the group indicated, and the trend is increasing. In addition, the Human Rights Ombudsman said that 177 cases were reported during the first three months of 1991.

During the last two weeks of President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo's term there were 28 murders and 10 disappearances. During the first 17 days of the presidency of Jose Serrano Elias, there were 72 such cases.

For the sake of comparison, the organization reported that in January and February 1990 there were 127 such murders, 45 fewer than the number reported during the same two months of 1991.

In addition, the Human Rights Ombudsman reported 177 murders during the first three months of 1991. The GAM data and the ombudsman's data reflect a sizeable increase.

The organization said that these actions, which clearly are flagrant human rights violations, "almost always come from the state. Therefore, the state is responsible for this disregard of human rights, either by its actions or its omissions."

"Some cases are in the public domain and demonstrate the behavior of the government's security forces. We hope the authorities will order the arrest of the leaders of the PAC [Civil Defense Patrols] which are operating in the Chunima district of Santo Tomas Chichicastenango, Quiche."

On this subject, Cesar Alvarez Guadamuz, deputy human rights ombudsman, stated that the increase in murders is caused by violence, lack of punishment, and the government's indifference and lack of political determination.

* Serrano Called 'Indifferent' to Abuses

91CA0112B Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 19 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] The acting Human Rights Ombudsman, Cesar Alvarez Guadamuz, called President Serrano "indifferent." He accused the president of encouraging this lawlessness by not issuing precise instructions to stop the civil patrols in Quiche. Warrants for their arrest have been issued.

"President Serrano's statement in January concerning cooperation and support for the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman has simply remained a dead letter," said Alvarez Guadamuz.

He explained that the chief executive's indifference was made quite clear on 4 March, "when he was requested to take part in an urgent meeting to discuss the death threats against 15 peasants from Chunima district, Chichicastenango, Quiche," he said.

"The third presidential chief of staff told me I would get a telegram or fax setting the date, but so far I am still waiting," he said.

He added that as the lives of nine children and six women were at stake, the ombudsman and members of the press went to the area to place the threatened people in safety. "If I had waited for the president's response, I would have had to go there to collect cadavers," he commented.

Alvarez Guadamuz also criticized the ministries of defense and government, along with the Siproci [Civil Protection System] for not acting on the arrest warrants issued by the courts against 18 civil patrol leaders of Zacualpa, Sacapulas and Chichicastenango.

"Based on this, we find that the protection which the state must guarantee to every human being, ensuring the right to life, dignity, and integrity, has in Guatemala become a lack of security, fear, and terror, instead of the absolute security every person is entitled to in any civilized nation," he concluded.

Honduras

Guerrilla Group Renounces Armed Struggle

PA1105132091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1927 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement today renounced its armed struggle in Honduras in an unexpected public ceremony in which President Rafael Callejas and Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua participated.

Callejas, meeting with the four main Cinchonero "commanders," described the ceremony as "historic" and said it is proof of political democratization in Honduras. In the name of his administration, he guaranteed respect for the lives of the former rebels.

The guerrilla organization was represented at the ceremony by Roger Alduwin, Efrain Manzanares, Fausto Orellana Nunez, and Luis Rivera, all members of the group's national directorate.

The Honduran president said that in exchange for an end to violence, the government will guarantee respect for the former rebels' civil rights and their lives.

"We have said farewell to arms," "Commander" Roger Alduwin said, thereby concluding the military era initiated by that organization in the early 1980's, a period in which it was the most belligerent organization of its kind in the country.

Alduwin admitted that Cinchonero cells were responsible, among other things, for seizing some 100 businessmen in 1982 and executing former "strongman" Gen. Gustavo Alvarez in 1989.

Alduwin, the group's spokesman said: "We will be candidates for mayors and deputies, and will seek to take over the presidential house by defeating the National and Liberal parties at the polls."

The former guerrillas emphasized that they are opposed to a "cosmetic democracy" and that they expect respect for their human rights, although Manzanares said: "We do not rule out attacks from those who are opposed to the renunciation of violence."

Despite their decision, the former guerrilla "commanders" refused to say what they will do with their weapons or whether the weapons will be turned over to the authorities with whom they agreed to return to civilian life.

At present, the Lorenzo Zelaya People's Revolutionary Forces are the only clandestine political-military organization remaining in Honduras, although unofficial sources maintain that they are engaged in talks with the government with an eye to accepting a government amnesty.

Soviet Diplomat on Ties With Central America

PA1205031191 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondurena Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 May 91

["Exclusive" interview with USSR Ambassador to Honduras Yevgeniy Astakhov by Carlos Riedel on the "Topics and News" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Riedel] Mr. Ambassador, you reside in Nicaragua, but are you also ambassador to the other Central American countries in the area, or only to Honduras?

[Astakhov] Formally only to Honduras, but in fact I am in charge of the affairs that have to do with relations with other Central American countries. For example, with Guatemala, partly with Panama, and I also look after any political arrangements in Central America [words indistint].

[Riedel] You have been ambassador for the past seven months in Nicaragua. What opinion do you have of the Chamorro government?

[Astakhov] I think that this government is doing very essential work for the Nicaraguan people. I am very fond of President Chamorro. She is a very courageous woman and is doing a very important task. The most important thing now is to obtain the concerted effort, a national consensus to resolve outstanding problems, mainly in the economic field.

[Riedel] Are President Chamorro and her government open to the concerted effort, or are they closed?

[Astakhov] I believe that they are open to a concerted effort and are doing all that is possible to move the country forward.

[Riedel] Are the Sandinists opposed to the concerted effort?

[Astakhov] No. The Sandinists, at least the Sandinist commanders with whom I have contact, understand perfectly well the need for joint efforts with the government of Violeta Chamorro.

[Riedel] Then why has the concerted effort not been achieved?

[Astakhov] Because there are extreme sectors who are opposed to these projects.

[Riedel] Extreme right?

[Astakhov] Extreme right or extreme left [words indistinct].

[Riedel] Do you believe that Chamorro has real power in Nicaragua?

[Astakhov] I think so.

[Riedel] As housewife or president?

[Astakhov] As president.

[Riedel] How does Chamorro treat you, Mr. Ambassador?

[Astakhov] I would say that her treatment of me is based on appreciation, respect, and even affection.

[Riedel] Is the treatment affected by your attention to or your ties to the Sandinists, or your support for the Sandinists?

[Astakhov] No, during my contacts with her we do not touch on this issue. We deal with this on the level of our countries' relationship.

[Riedel] Our guest tonight on "Topics and News" is the first USSR ambassador in Honduras, Yevgeniy Astakhov. He is visiting us here on "Topics and News," and you may pose your questions by calling 32-6064. In a few minutes we will cover the question: What is Moscow's strategy for Central America?

Mr. Ambassador, now that you have presented your credentials as USSR ambassador to our country, what specific relations do you foresee between Moscow and Honduras?

[Astakhov] I want to say that the potential for our relations is very strong. Frankly, I am optimistic about the prospects for our bilateral relations. Our economies are perfectly complementary. We can supply items of maximum interest to Honduras, and vice-versa. We already have an interest in importing traditional products...

[Riedel, interrupting] Bananas, coffee?

[Astakhov] Yes. As I understand it, we already had economic relations with Honduras, but trade was carried out through third parties, and I do not think this type of relationship was profitable.

[Riedel] Mr. Astakhov, what is your opinion about the constant criticism of USSR aid through Cuba and Nicaragua to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in El Salvador?

[Astakhov] We do not provide any type of aid to the FMLN in El Salvador. As I understand it, even the Sandinist Front does not supply any weapons or military equipment to the FMLN. The last inventory that took place in Managua clearly shows this. I also clearly understand that the Nicaraguan Government announced the results of the inventory that took place several weeks ago in Managua to the Central American Security Commission [Comision de Segurida de America Central]. I do not think there is anything serious in these statements.

[Riedel] Is Managua subdued by the United States?

[Astakhov] No, Managua is completely independent in its foreign and domestic actions. This is the information I have.

[Riedel] How about impositions by the United States?

[Astakhov] Pardon me?

[Riedel] How about any impositions by the United States?

[Astakhov] No. I point out that as I see it, the Managua government is completely independent in its foreign and domestic policies.

[Riedel] There are many people surrounding President Chamorro, such as the Lacayo family, who were very powerful during the Somoza period as well as now. What is your opinion of them?

[Astakhov] I personally know Antonio Lacayo. He is a politician, businesman, and an outstanding [words indistinct]. He has a cool head, experience, and thorough management ability, including at the national level.

[Riedel] Mr. Ambassador, in your opinion is socialism still in effect for the Central American countries? Can it be an alternative?

[Astakhov] You know, socialism is an alternative for all countries. However, let us clarify what socialism means. I understand socialism as a political, economic, and social regime that ensures the best standard of living, the most efficient economy, and the best developed social protection of all countries. For example, I sometimes believe that countries such as Switzerland or Sweden, that today are ahead of the USSR in certain areas of their development, are closer to socialism.

For example in many aspects, the USSR does not... [changes thought] I really do not like to announce this in public, but in many aspects the USSR does not really have (?specific) internal policies, that is, in theory. In fact, [words indistinct] because socialism was always thought to be much more progressive, much more profitable than capitalism. In some cases, we have not been able to attain efficiency, mainly in our economy. I want to state that we are still working on that process, but this is only temporary.

[Riedel] Does socialism mean equality?

[Astakhov] Of course. However, this does not mean that a person that is not qualified for a job will be evaluated on the same scale as a person working well and who is very interested in doing his job well. I think this is the just thing to do. I believe that social justice means that a person that works more must earn more.

[Riedel] What is your opinion of El Salvador, where poverty, administrative corruption, and inequalities are practically breeding grounds for rebellious movements?

[Astakhov] It is somewhat difficult for me to speak about El Salvador in this case, because in the first place, we do not have diplomatic relations with El Salvador. In the second place, why should I have to voice judgment on the situation in other countries? Who am I to judge others? I think that each country, each people have to determine their own fates.

[Riedel] Is there equity, or are there any symptoms that originate this...

[Astakhov, interrupting] Frankly speaking, I want to tell you something. No one has a monopoly on truth. Each country, each people must follow their own (?development), struggle, system, choices, evolution, and so forth. Frankly speaking, I do not like to judge others, as for one or another reason, this could provoke another situation. Sometimes I think... [changes thought] it is said that... [changes thought] we even say we must solve our own problems within the USSR before we can make recommendations or advise others.

[Riedel] A few minutes ago you said the USSR is not financing the FMLN.

[Astakhov] That is correct.

[Riedel] How about transshipment of weapons?

[Astakhov] There is none.

[Riedel] What do you think of the U.S. strategy for Central America at this point? How do you define it?

[Astakhov] We have an almost constant dialogue with the United States. We have already established some channels for discussing what is happening in Central America and then to make, if you would, some joint agreements for promoting political settlements in Central America. I believe that in the long run, the interests of the United States and the USSR in this area coincide in many aspects. Previously, Central America was sort of an area of confrontation...

[Riedel, interrupting] A battlefield between socialism and capitalism, as Gorbachev says in the book on perestroyka?

[Astakhov] Something like that, because sometimes these games between the superpowers, this game of ideological systems reminded me sometimes of a soccer game. Some won terrain, others influence, and so forth. This looks like some sort of a childhood disease of mankind, if you would. Right now, we are much more mature, and we understand that the most important issue right now for the world is the supremacy of universal values and (?not) ideological aspects.

[Riedel] On the subject of what you are saying, Mr. Ambassador, why do allied countries, such as Cuba, not accept perestroyka?

[Astakhov] I think that each country and people have to decide its own destiny through their own efforts.

[Riedel] You said the same about El Salvador. However, do you think that the rebel movements are a viable alternative in these countries?

[Astakhov] The people must make those decisions. To answer your question, I think the ideal situation is an evolution. I think the majority of the people must decide or choose what to do.

[Riedel] What do you think of the rebel movements in Central America: Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador? In general terms, what do you think of the rebel movements?

[Astaihov] I do not think that violence is good. Any kind of violence counters the interests of all the people. The best thing always is to avoid violence. If a sector of the people is oppressed or living under unbearable conditions, the people must decide in their own time. [Words indistinct] one or more ethnic groups or one or more parties or persons must make this or that decision. We are not in a condition to be judged by others.

[Riedel] We have questions from people all over the country. Rosa Aguilar asks: What are you offering us, in the light of the new Soviet Union?

[Astakhov] Regarding Honduras? We will offer our experience, equipment, and culture, as well as our desire to establish cooperation with all sectors of Honduras. I think there are broad possibilities toward that goal.

[Riedel] Jenny Fero asks: Did you invite President Leonardo Callejas to visit the Soviet Union during the ceremony to present your credentials?

[Astakhov] Not right now, because we are going to delve into political, economic, and cultural matters a little later. Right now we must formalize our relations and open up this phase in our relations, and then we will get into the details.

[Riedel] Maria Elena Diaz from San Pedro Sula called to ask: Can Hondurans enter the Soviet Union?

[Astakhov] Of course. There are no problems. By the way, our embassy and consular section in Managua are open to all Hondurans who want any kind of information or want to solve any problem regarding visas or how to enter or leave the Soviet Union, or seek cultural, economic, or social exchange.

[Riedel] Raul Mejia from Nazaron de Copan asks: Were you involved in negotiations to repatriate Hondurans persecuted for their political views, who are now in Nicaragua?

[Astakhov] No.

[Riedel] Here is another question: Did you bring proposals to increase the number of scholarships for Hondurans who may want to study in the USSR? This is a question by Luis Roda from San Pedro Sula.

[Astakhov] I did not bring specific proposals. I am bringing our good intentions to expand relations in this field. I want to stress one thing. We are planning to conduct extensive work in three areas. We are planning a program for technical and scientific exchange, or a cultural program with Honduras, where these things related to [words indistinct] can be included.

[Riedel] Caller [word indistinct] Mendoza asks: In your opinion, which are the areas in the country requiring technical cooperation?

[Astakhov] (?I would say) that in the electricity sector or possibly in engineering, and also [words indistinct] in metals.

[Riedel] Caller Jaime Rodriguez asks: Will you give financing to Honduras?

[Astakhov] We have not talked about this type of cooperation yet.

[Riedel] The president did not ask for it?

[Astakhov] No.

[Riedel] Caller Roberto Albadon asks: What advice would you give to the Central Americans who are still interested in Marxism?

[Astakhov] I believe that Central Americans are not the only ones interested in Marxism. Marxism is a fundamental science, a universal response, a value that applies

to all. This does not mean that it is the only one that exists. Marxism is one of the fields—if you want to call it that [changes thought] It is a fundamental universal science.

[Riedel] Caller Cruz asks: Does the Marxist-Leninist theory continue to guide the Soviet people, or have they abandoned it?

[Astakhov] No, we have not abandoned Marxism-Leninism. We have abandoned the dogmatic part, the stereotyped aspects of it, and certain interpretations of Marxism-Leninism that were held by a number of politicians in certain countries. We favor an opening—I would say a reconsideration—of Marxism-Leninism to allow for new perspectives or new versions of Marxism-Leninism, which I consider a science.

[Riedel] Because Marxism failed?

[Astakhov] No, what failed in a certain way was the model, the interpretation given to Marxism. Marxism is much more encompassing than the interpretation that was given. So is Leninism. It is much more encompassing than the model that exists in our country, or in one of the East European countries for example.

[Riedel] Raul Mejia has called from Santa Rosa Copan. He asks: What was your impression of President Callejas?

[Astakhov] It seems to me that he is a very active and intelligent person. He is a person who is not stereotyped. He has an open mind to face problems and set priorities. He is a person who knows that...

[Riedel, interrupting] Caller Wilfredo Medrano asks: What has been the result of perestroyka in the countries that are the Soviet Union's allies? Why have these allies withdrawn their support?

[Astakhov] It has nothing to do with perestroyka, at least not in the terms that are applicable to our country. Perestroyka as such, as can be observed in our policies now [words indistinct] in East European countries. Rather, the events occurred because of impatience. Some of these countries have even [words indistinct] and have taken another direction.

[Riedel] Mr. Ambassador, what is your opinion of the U.S. Palmerola military base?

[Astakhov] I do not have an opinion about it.

[Riedel] Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for being with us tonight. What can you tell the Hondurans? What can they expect from the Soviet Union?

[Astakhov] I can only tell them one thing. We have come to Honduras with our hands clean and our hearts open. We are willing to cooperate with the state and the people in all sectors. We are in favor of having very close contacts with the people in all sectors, and I believe that we will have a splendid future in this respect. The huge distances that separate our countries do not justify a lack of relations. On the contrary, my impression in these two days—less than that—in practically the one day I have been here, is that we will have many opportunities to cooperate with the people and to mutually benefit the interests of our countries and our governments.

[Riedel] Is Honduras a country of interest to the Soviet Union?

[Astakhov] Excuse me?

[Riedel] Is Honduras a country of interest....

[Astakhov, interrupting] Of course. In general, we are open to all the Central American countries. We want to develop contacts in the political, economic, and cultural fields. I believe that Honduras meets all the requirements to join us in this endeavor. I assure you that our relations will benefit both our countries.

[Riedel] Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador. This has been Yevgeniy Astakhov, the new ambassador of the Soviet Union, who presented credentials to our government at the presidential palace this afternoon.

TASS, PRENSA LATINA Negotiate Offices

PA1305044191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1644 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Soviet news agency TASS and Cuba's PRENSA LATINA are negotiating with the Honduran Government to open offices in this country and break the ban imposed on them several decades ago.

Gennadiy Kochuk [name as received], head of TASS' Latin America bureau, said today that he had informed Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of the project to include Honduras in the TASS network.

Kochuk said that the idea of installing a permanent correspondent's office in Tegucigalpa seeks to "offer greater coverage to events that take place daily in Honduras."

A presidential palace official source said that "the PRENSA LATINA Cuban news agency has also shown interest recently in having personnel permanently assigned to Honduras."

Both agencies have been denied access to Honduras over the past decades, but since the end of the 1980's their journalists have been allowed to cover certain events.

Nicaragua

FSLN Communique Demands Social Stability

PA1005185291 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 91

[Communique issued by the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, in Managua on 9 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Since the end of March, the members of the National Directorate have been meeting with the party's rank and file in all departments to analyze the critical situation in our homeland and to encourage our people to fight in defense of peace and their legitimate rights.

National stability and economic recovery are seriously endangered by the government's inconsistencies and provocations from the extreme right.

In a disorderly reversion of properties, Attorney General Julio Baltodano and the commission in charge of reviewing confiscations [comision revisora de confiscaciones] ignore the legitimate rights of peasants, agricultural workers, and even of the demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN].

Those reversions in favor of Somozists and landowners constitute a flagrant violation of the transition agreements and a sabotage against social peace and stability.

The associations of former owners of confiscated properties and politicians who follow [Vice President Virgilio] Godoy's line [politicos godoyistas] are promoting the violent dislodgement of peasant cooperatives and encouraging the rearming of small groups of demobilized RN members. Because of this, many people have been killed or wounded in the past few months and there is a situation of real anarchy in vast rural sectors.

The situation worsened when UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies introduced at the National Assembly a bill to abrogate Laws 85 and 86, through which thousands of families were declared owners of their lots and houses.

The FSLN, in keeping with its policy of peace and stability and faithful to its historical commitment to the cause of the poor and humble, demands:

1. The immediate legalization of property rights of agricultural workers, demobilized RN and EPS members to guarantee the normalization of production and civic activities in rural areas.

2. Effective respect for peasants' properties, restoration of cooperatives to their legitimate owners, and the non-return of properties to Somozists and people's oppressors.

3. Categorical rejection of attempts to abrogate Laws 85 and 86 through the National Assembly and the immediate delivery of land titles to those benefitted by those laws.

4. Expeditious granting enough credits to all productive sectors in rural areas that are now facing unemployment and hunger as a result of the financial limitations they are suffering.

5. Effective and timely compliance with the agreements signed with the FNT [National Workers Front] on 18 March to strengthen stability and credibility.

On 3 and 6 May, a delegation from the National Directorate met with government representatives who heard these demands. We also warned them of the serious danger that lies ahead if urgent actions are not taken to solve those problems.

The government representatives reiterated their willingness to respect the transition agreements and promised to study and implement specific measures to eliminate the main favors of crisis and stabilization.

The FSLN and grass roots organizations are on alert and mobilized to defend the people's legitimate rights and will continue struggling until our demands are fully satisfied.

Free fatherland or death!

FSLN National Directorate

Managua, 9 May 91

Reaction to C.A. Parliament Election Decision

FSLN Supports Government

PA1105010591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 91

[Interview with Sergio Ramirez, head of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's, FSLN, legislative bloc, by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Sergio Ramirez, head of the FSLN's legislative bloc, has supported the government's decision not to hold elections for the Central American parliament because those elections would become a battlefield between supporters of Vice President Virgilio Godoy, supporters of President Violeta de Chamorro, and Sandinists.

Here is what Ramirez said:

[Ramirez] I personally agree with that opinion. I believe that making the nation go through the tension and polarization that elections for a parliament that is still strange as a political idea for the Nicaraguan people would only create confrontations between these groups. I do not think this would be healthy for the country at this time.

This does not mean that I am trying to ignore the existence of the treaty. The government will have to finds ways to [word indistinct] that treaty, in view of the alternative that Engineer Lacayo mentioned.

[Reporter] Since you worked with other Central American vice presidents on that project, do you believe that Nicaragua should hold those elections later on if conditions permit?

[Ramirez] [Words indistinct] You know that attempts to create a Central American parliament have been made throughout the history of Central American countries since their independence. However, this is not easy. Before the Nicaraguan Government made this annoucement, we heard that the Guatemalan Government was

pulling out because there is a new government there. Maybe President Serrano's government is not interested. Costa Rica never wanted to enter. Therefore, I believe that this is an idea, a dream that Central Americans should continue to cherish, but which is not easy to implement.

[Reporter] What about the EC's announcement that it would supply funds to finance those elections?

[Ramirez] I really do not know if those funds are still available. However, the government did not base its decision on financial aspects, but on Nicaragua's internal political situation.

Leftists Reject Decision

PA1305044591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] The ultraleftist Marxist-Leninist Party and the Movement of Revolutionary Unity [MUR] have accused Antonio Lacayo and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] of having forged a pact by not permitting elections for the Central American parliament. Francisco Samper of MUR and Carlos Cuadra of the Marxist-Leninist Party referred to this matter.

[Begin Samper recording] The truth is that it is a secret (?known) to all Nicaraguans. It was a rat [words indistinct] the FSLN leadership and the people linked to Lacayo.

We reported this at the seminar on the Central American parliament held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center one month ago [words indistinct] the UNO [National Opposition Union] lecture given by Luis Sanchez and that given by Sergio Ramirez on behalf of the FSLN [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Cuadra noted:

[Begin Cuadra recording] First it must be noted that it is a decision that must be made by the executive branch. However, it goes against international treaties and it is a legal obligation, especially for the Supreme Electoral Council. In addition, it violates the Constitution because the executive branch must make sure that the electoral councils [words indistinct]. It expresses a political position that I think will be carried through based on deals made by our government. It is part of a negotiation and I imagine there will be counterproposals made in exchange for those accepted by the FSLN [words indistinct]. I feel it is important to also note that the government's decision affects the bourgeois democracy they promote. Now it is said that it is undemocratic and even dangerous for the people to express an opinion, make political decisions, explain their views, especially on government matters, and voice their concerns and conflicts. This is what Mr. Lacayo or Mr. Ramirez said. They said that it is dangerous to hold elections. [end recording]

UNO Advocates Elections

PA1105032291 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] At least five of the 14 political parties comprising the National Opposition Union have rejected the government's decision not to hold elections for the Central American parliament.

One of the first reactions came from Jairo Manuel Lopez, of the National Democratic Confidence Party. Here is his statement.

[Begin recording] [Lopez] I think that Nicaragua should honor its commitment to hold elections for the parliament. I believe that it is a mistake for Nicaragua not to exercise democracy. I have always sustained that democracy is a continous process. Democracy is not limited to calling citizens sporadically to vote for one candidate or the other. Democracy should be exercised whenever possible so that citizens can familiarize themselves with democratic procedures.

In my opinion, the fact that elections for the parliament will not be held in Nicaragua is regrettable. In addition, those elections could also be a means of measuring the government and opposition's strength and level of support in order to determine what percentage of Nicaraguans support each sector.

[Reporter] Do you agree with the government's allegation that these elections would reopen wounds that have not yet healed in our country?

[Lopez] I think that is a personal viewpoint, however, I do believe that holding elections for the parliament would strengthen democracy in Nicaragua. [end recording]

Vice President Denies Rumors, Calls For Peace

PA1205001591 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy, speaking about the need to reach agreements that will restore peace in Nicaragua, said it is necessary to initiate an intense dialogue process in which all Nicaraguans are considered equal and there are no privileges. As an example, he mentioned the case of the demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, whose problems have been forgotten. Let us listen to the statements made by Vice President Godoy:

[Begin recording] [Godoy] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is doing something very bad. The only ones to blame for the arms race in Nicaragua are the members of the FSLN, who not only provoked an arms buildup, but 10 years of war in this country.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the statement made by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who said Nicaragua will not participate in the Central American parliament?

[Godoy] That is an unfortunate opinion for several reasons. First, the process leading to the creation of the parliament has made great progress. Three countries, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, have already elected their deputies, and the parliament will begin its duties with these three countries if Nicaragua decides not to participate. Second, Nicaragua is the loser if it decides not to participate. The rest of the countries will benefit because the EEC has shown great interest in supporting Central America as a region and not country by country, which would happen if Nicaragua separates itself from the political integration process represented by the parliament.

[Reporter] Did you talk to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo about that?

[Godoy] We spoke about the parliament, but we also reviewed the latest statements made in the country in connection with several situations. We talked about the remarks—which were not very serious and I would call them impolite—made by some government officials, both civilian and military, who are setting the stage for violence in the country. In this case, I talked to the cardinal about the need to exert ourselves so the appropriate climate of peace can be restored in Nicaragua [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Rearmament 'Sign of Restlessness'

PA1205013691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 May 91 p 5

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes has denied being the principal instigator of the former Nicarguan Resistance [RN] members' rearmament, adding that this thought can only be harbored by the Sandinist leaders and some government officials.

After a half-hour meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo at the archbishop's see, Godoy insisted that the presidency minister himself, Antonio Lacayo, "has said that the contras' rearmament is not marking the resumption of any kind of violence but rather is a sign of restlessness among the former RN members."

Commander Luis Carrion—during the broadcast of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate's 1 May message to the workers—directly accused politicians, Godoy sympathizers, Mayor Arnoldo Aleman, UNO [National Opposition Union] radicals, and COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] businessmen of fostering the former RN members' rearmament.

General Humberto Ortega, head of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], also accused Godoy and Aleman of fostering the former RN members' violent actions.

Nevertheless, Godoy claims that former contras are rearming because their demands have not been fulfilled, even though there are agreements pending.

Godoy disclosed that during his meeting with Cardinal Obando y Bravo they discussed Nicaragua's participation in the Central American parliament and the need to search for alternatives to attain peace.

Godoy noted that the Central American Parliament's organization is well advanced and added that if Nicaragua does not form part of the parliament it will only be due to political reasons, "because the financing problem has been resolved with a $3-million donation pledged by the EEC."

When questioned by a reporter on who is in charge now that the president was abroad, Godoy replied: "You will have to look into a crystal ball to get the answer to that mystery. It has been said that when the president travels she takes the chair with her," he noted.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Obando y Bravo reiterated that Vice President Godoy discussed with him the organization of the Central American Parliament, as well as the need to find a mechanism to end violence in Nicaragua.

No Links With 'Recontras'

PA1205134691 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 May 91 pp 1, 8

[Text] Dr. Virgilio Godoy, vice president without duties, described as "irresponsible and impertinent" General Humberto Ortega's statements, which a few days ago accused Godoy and Arnoldo Aleman of being behind the former contra uprising in northern Nicaragua.

"Everyone knows Gen. Ortega, he has said many times that he is unwilling to recognize any government except his own," Godoy said, replying to reporters in his peculiar defensive and irritable style after arriving near the end of the inaugural meeting of the 3d Meeting of Legislative Assembly Presidents of Central America and Panama.

Godoy, who recently returned from a European tour, accused the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] commander in chief of falsifying reality because "perhaps he is intending to promote a new climate of violence." He also referred to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, as "Ortega's partner." Lacayo has also hinted that the vice president is behind the "re-contras" [contras who have again taken up arms].

As far as Godoy is concerned, "Lacayo and Ortega are one and the same because both are closely associated." Despite the serious accusations made against Godoy, the Liberal Party leader said he will not sue because "everyone knows Humberto Ortega is a history forger."

The vice president complained that "they always invent things" when he is outside the country. He also complained that the current "closeness" [kupia-kumi] excludes him from "official activities," which makes him a person with "admirable powers, because despite not having any official assistance, I am behind all movements," something that he flatly denied.

Notwithstanding, Godoy said that "sometimes I wish I was behind everything," and cited as an example that he would have liked to have organized the UNO [National Opposition Union] mayoral movement, as "this would have been promising for me."

Asked whether he maintains his differences with the president, Godoy replied: Which president?

How is the PLI [Independent Liberal Party] reorganization going? Godoy replied laconically: "Very well." What has been done? He replied in the same manner: "All we could do."

When a journalist told Godoy that it is precisely because of his presence in the north that he is blamed for the violence there, he replied: "Oh, you want to tie our hands so that we cannot move." Godoy added that "those who want to do that are mistaken because we Liberals are an important reality."

According to Dr. Godoy, the Liberal family is uniting so as to later unite the Nicaraguan family.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo Warns of Possible Coup

PA1205150991 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1353 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has said that Sandinists could be preparing a coup d'etat against Violeta Chamorro's government, according to a report published by LA PRENSA, which is owned by the Nicaraguan president.

Obando y Bravo said that strikes have shown that the Sandinists have the necessary social support to paralyze the country whenever they want, adding that the government does not have enough power to stop the movements against it.

Remarks Made 'Months Ago'

PA1205205491 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1839 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Managua, 12 May (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo denied today that the Sandinists are planning a "coup d'etat" against the Violeta Chamorro administration.

Obando described as "extemporaneous" a report published yesterday by the daily LA PRENSA that accuses Sandinists of preparing a "coup d'etat" against Chamorro.

In his Sunday homily, Obando y Bravo said that his statements to EL SEMANARIO, reprinted on 11 May by LA PRENSA, were made "months ago." EL SEMANARIO is directed by former Vice President Sergio Ramirez.

The newspaper claims that Cardinal Obando y Bravo had told EL SEMANARIO that "the Sandinists are making moves in a direction that could lead to a checkmate maneuver, a coup d'etat, against President Violeta Chamorro."

In this interview, the cardinal said that "the strikes (that took place in May and June 1990) showed that the Sandinists have enough social power to paralyze the country when they want to, and the government has no power to stop such movements against it."

The bishop of Panama pointed out that this type of information "confuses" the reader because it only "refers to things I said several months ago," referring to the "protests" of the Sandinists in May and June 1990.

He said that LA PRENSA makes it appear as if the interview was given on 9 May, but the truth is that "I did not make any statements on that day." President Chamorro is co-owner of LA PRENSA.

He answered reporters' questions by saying that the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) "at this time cannot stage a coup d'etat. Who could help it at the international level?" the prelate asked.

However, the cardinal said that "everything is possible in politics."

Lacayo Delivers Assistance to Former Contras

PA1205213491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1602 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Managua, 12 May (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo traveled today to the northern town of San Jose de Bocay near the Honduran border to deliver material assistance to the former contras who have again taken up weapons.

Lacayo explained to a congress commission that the situation of extreme poverty of the demobilized fighters of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and former members of the Sandinist Army is the reason why "minority" groups have once again taken up arms.

"This is not the resumption of the war, but rather a case of small groups who have again taken up arms in order to solve their socioeconomic problems. It is a way of calling the government's attention to their situation of extreme poverty," the high-ranking government official said.

As part of the "emergency plan," 20 trucks of the Sandinist Army left from Managua yesterday, heading to the towns in northern Jinotega Department, about 250 km from Managua, with improved corn seeds and agricultural products.

Lacayo will visit San Jose de Bocay and Ayapal, a mountainous area that was the historic site of eight years of war, and where the armed groups are now gathering to demand that the Chamorro government comply with its promises.

In exchange for their demobilization, Chamorro promised to give the contras land and material assistance so

they could join a productive life. However, it has been one year and the minimum needs of approximately 20,000 persons have not been satisfied.

The government will channel external cooperation programs toward solving the crisis of the former fighters, who are "liable to be manipulated by the political groups," added Lacayo, who is considered the "strong man of Nicaragua."

FSLN To Send Ramirez to Donors Conference

PA1305044391 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Through a communique, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has announced that, by decision of the National Directorate, Dr. Sergio Ramirez Mercado will participate in the final conference of donor countries to be held in Paris on 17 May.

The communique adds that the FSLN supports the government's financial negotiations so that the resources obtained will be used to help the poorest sectors.

In 1989, by an initiative of the Sandinist government, Sweden convoked the first conference of donor countries in Stockholm to help realize Nicaragua's economic plan, which is aimed at attaining the country's financial and productive recovery.

FSLN Assembly Figure Praises UNO Stance

PA1205134191 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 May 91 p 5

[Text] Dr. Sergio Ramirez, the leader of the Sandinists in the National Assembly, has cheered the decision of a group of National Opposition Union [UNO] deputies who yesterday announced the withdrawal of one of two bills calling for measures against properties granted by the revolution.

The withdrawal of the bill, aimed at giving legal force to resolutions of the National Commission To Review Confiscations, was announced yesterday by its promoters during a plenary meeting of the National Assembly: Deputies Hernaldo Zuniga, Frank Duarte, Delvis Montiel, Adolfo Jarquin, and Alejandro Solorzano.

Sergio Ramirez said: "The withdrawal of this project promotes a suitable climate for discussions, eliminates obstacles, and contributes to reconciliation. Let us hope that this gesture will be mirrored by conservative deputies who still want to annul laws 85 and 86."

The many popular demonstrations of discontent were "fundamental" in convincing one of the two UNO groups that want to annul the grants of property by the revolution to withdraw its bill, Sergio Ramirez said.

The bill, attributed to Hernaldo Zuniga Montenegro, a conservative, was aimed at giving legal force to the resolutions of the commission charged with reviewing confiscations.

The Sandinist front has organized a large popular offensive against efforts to annul laws 85 and 86, which legally granted thousands of houses and blocs of land to poor families and peasants of Nicaragua.

The Sandinists worked long hours with the Community Movement to organize teams of lawyers and deputies who have gone throughout the country explaining to the people the benefits that extremist UNO sectors want to annul.

UNO sympathizers and militants have begun to attend these meetings to defend the rights of people who were granted property by the revolution.

Merger Creates 'Conservative Party of Nicaragua'

PA1305044791 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] The National Council of Political Parties [CNPP] yesterday approved a request for the creation of the Conservative Party of Nicaragua [Partido Conservador de Nicaragua], which will be the result of a merger by certain political groups of a similar ideology. This merger is made up of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, the Social Conservative Party, and the groups without legal status headed by Alfredo Mendieta, Hernaldo Zuniga Montenegro, and Gerardo Alfaro.

Cesar Augusto Castillo was the only one at the CNPP meeting who opposed the approval for this new party. Castillo said that Enrique Sotelo Borgen, not Clemente Guido, is the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua coordinator. Castillo, who is the CNPP secretary, has opposed the merger, thus showing that there is division among conservative leaders.

Official Reportedly Linked to Money Laundering

PA1005222091 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar Aguirre and his wife Silvia Lacayo de Cesar, as general treasurer of the Republic [title as heard], are on the board of directors of Inversiones Lorena S.A., a commercial company whose legal representative is a law firm said to be connected to money laundering. Inversiones Lorena S.A. was founded in 1982 in Panama City and certified by Alma Montenegro de Fletcher. The company appointed the law firm of Solis, Endara, and Delgado as its legal representative. It has also been said that this law firm, of which Panamanian President Guillermo Endara is an associate, acts as the legal representative for other commercial companies that launder money from international cocaine trafficking.

The members of this company's board of directors are: Alfredo Cesar Aguirre, chairman, and his brother Octaviano Aguirre, who has been linked to cocaine trafficking, secretary. Silvia Lacayo de Cesar, sister of Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and wife of national assembly president Alfredo Cesar Aguirre, is the treasurer and other family members are also on the board of directors.

Although Inversiones Lorena S.A. was incorporated in Panama City, the company's charter states that its offices are located in Miami. Its objective is to perform all types of commercial transactions in Nicaragua, which means that the company, along with these government officials, will sell the Nicaraguan Government all the furniture it needs.

Panama

Asylum Seekers Leave for Venezuela 'Amid Shouts'

PA1105010791 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2331 GMT 10 May 91

[Telephone report by journalist Alvaro Alvarado from the Tocumen International Airport in Panama City to studio anchorman Julio Miller—live]

[Text] [Miller] Dear viewers, we have our reporter Alvaro Alvarado on the telephone. He is at Tocumen International Airport and has last-minute information concerning the departure from Panama of the four individuals who have been in asylum in various embassies in our country. Go ahead, Alvaro, with this last-minute information.

[Alvarado] Of course, Julio. Viewers, some two minutes ago, Heraclides Sucre, Luis "Lucho" Gomez, and Gonzalo Gonzalez left Tocumen International Airport on an Avensa airline commercial flight. They left a mere two minutes ago.

These individuals left the country amid strict airport security measures. Prior to the departure of these three individuals, Mr. Rafael Arosemena, former manager of the national bank of Panama, also left the country on a special flight aboard a private jet that the Mexican Government sent to Panama for the sole purpose of picking him up. Arosemena departed approximately 45 minutes ago.

Viewers, those individuals left just two minutes ago, amid shouts and desperate cries from some of the wives, who were at the airport, of the men who were killed on 3 October 1989. Go ahead, studios.

[Miller] What is the security situation there, and what measures were applied? Has the departure of these individuals been confirmed by any Panamanian authority?

[Alvarado] Well, when we arrived at the airport, we were denied any information or any access to the area where the former asylees were located. We were prevented from doing our journalistic work. This led to some pushing and shoving with members of the security corps, as a result of which we broke into the area where the asylees were located, and we were able to obtain for RPC, as you will soon see, some exclusive shots of these individuals' departure. We saw Lucho Gomez closely guarded by members of the Institutional Protection Service and airport security. So were Heraclides Sucre and Gonzalo Gonzalez, who were carrying briefcases and a great amount of clothing. First, the Avensa passengers were allowed to board, after which these individuals were allowed to board by a special ramp, instead of through the main door. They are on their way to Venezuela, after which they will go on to their respective destinations.

Security was tight. Many members of the Public Force were also in the area, attempting to keep reporters, who are responsible for keeping the Panamanian people informed, from doing their job. No government official was present. There was only a presidential adviser in charge of the operation. Go ahead, Julio.

[Miller] It was mentioned that some of these asylees were not in the best of health. Could you confirm this?

[Alvarado] Well, as far as we could see, they appeared to be healthy. They were definitely smiling, as we saw, and as you will soon see in shots taken by our cameramen here in the area. They were smiling, composed, and calm. They were even carrying luggage aboard the plane.

[Miller] Thank you, Alvaro, for this last-minute report.

Endara Explains Safe-Conducts

PA1105003391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2326 GMT 10 May 91

[Interview with President Guillermo Endara by unidentified reporters in Panama City 10 May—recorded]

[Text] [Endara] The government has been studying this issue for many months and we reached a conclusion. All the international sectors interpret the Caracas Treaty the same way, meaning that the decision made by the nation that grants an asylum is decisive. It is final and definite. In the cases we talk about, the Mexican Government, the Peruvian Government, and the Cuban Government have clearly decided and said—and they have said so to the Republic of Panama—that the crimes perpetrated by those persons are political crimes.

[Reporter] Does this mean...

[Endara, interrupting] I confess, I confess that I disagree with that assessment, but the essential thing is that all of Panama's international friends have convinced us that the only interpretation possible to the Caracas Treaty is that the nation granting asylum definitely decides whether or not the crime perpetrated by the person who seeks asylum is a political crime.

[Reporter] Does this means that the government will grant the safe-conducts?

[Endara] Yes. It means that the refugees are at this moment being transferred to the respective countries that granted them asylum.

[Reporter] Mr. President, do you not think that this counters the struggle waged by the Panamanian people on the streets?

[Endara] The presidency has been a place where I have had to make very, very difficult decisions. This is a very difficult decision. I would have liked to be in a dream world and to say the issue should be forgotten, but I cannot. This is an issue that Panama has had to live with on a daily basis, and we had to solve it according to Panama's interests. I know that those men are not political criminals; nevertheless, the countries have decided that the crimes can be classified as political. They have decided this and their decision is final. I do not agree with that assessment but I have to abide by international law because I am the president of Panama. Panama has to respect international laws if we expect others to respect us.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what about the charges against them? Will they be forgotten?

[Endara] The charges still stand. That issue is being handled by the judicial branch and the attorney general's office. They are still in charge of the proceedings and I believe that an extradition request will be filed as soon as possible.

Ford Comments

PA1205001291 Panama City KW Radio Continente in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 May 91

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy, by station director Homero Londono at the Tocumen International Airport in Panama City on 10 May—recorded]

[Text] [Londono] What is your opinion with respect to the safe-conducts granted to Chalo Gonzalez, Heraclides Sucre, and Lucho Gomez, as they were considered common criminals?

[Ford] I just found out about this upon my arrival. I must say, first of all, that this is a constitutional right of the president of the Republic and the foreign minister. However, we must emphasize this to the whole country: Panama is a signatory of the Caracas Convention. Once it was ratified, the Caracas Convention became the law of the Republic of Panama and forces Panama—in this case—to respect what the other states have said about these men. Therefore, if these men have left, the president is complying with the law.

[Londono] As a person who has struggled for democracy, do you agree with this?

[Ford] I will tell you one thing. I have never agreed with crooks, but I agree with complying with the law.

[Londono] Vice President, the director of IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] said yesterday that 1,030 public employees will be fired as a result of negotiations with the World Bank. What is your opinion of this?

[Ford] I am going to tell you frankly. First of all, I repeat, with all due modesty, that there is only one minister of planning here. When I say that public employees will be fired, then they will be fired. Second, allow me to tell you: Let us not speculate any further. The Panamanian people are anxious, and we are going to give them all the figures, the whole truth. We must give them peace and tranquillity. We are not going to do anything behind their backs.

[Londono] But what would the Panamanian people have lost if we had not given safe-conducts to those murderers?

[Ford] Put simply, the Republic of Panama would have been breaking an international convention that is also the law of the republic.

[Londono] What would happen then?

[Ford] We would have negatively affected our international relations because we would have broken a treaty, and Panama would then not have the moral authority to demand the compliance of any other treaty that benefits us if we did not honor other treaties. Remember something else: I was in political exile and Ecuador respected the political asylum.

[Londono] Was it an imposition of the United States that forced Panama to proceed in this way...

[Ford, interrupting] Do me a favor and do not come talking about any gringophile complex.

[Londono] No, no, I am not talking about any gringophile complexes...

[Ford, interrupting] Do not come with any ...

[Londono, interrupting] Just a minute. What I am saying is...

[Ford, interrupting and shouting] Do not come to me with any gringophile complex. No one imposes anything on me. [shouting in backgound] Come on buddy, what's the matter?

Extraditions To Be Requested

PA1105021191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0027 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said today that he will immediately request the extradition of four former collaborators of deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega's who today traveled to Mexico, Peru, and Cuba after receiving safe-conducts to leave the embassies of those countries.

"I already announced, while I presented the safe-conducts, that I would request the extraditions," Linares told reporters.

Among the asylees are banker Rafael Arosemena, who sought refuge in the Mexican Embassay from the time of the U.S. invasion in 1989, and former legislator Luis

Gomez, who had also spent one and half years at the Cuban Embassy awaiting a safe-conduct.

The other two are Major Gonzalo Gonzalez and Captain Heraclides Sucre, former members of Noriega's dismantled Defense Forces, who sought refuge during the invasion at the Peruvian Embassy.

Arosemena traveled this afternoon to Mexico aboard a private airplane, and the other three traveled on a commercial flight to Caracas, according to sources at Tocumen airport.

Venezuelan diplomats explained that Gomez, Sucre, and Gonzalez will only make a technical stopover in Caracas and from there Sucre and Gonzalez will travel on to Lima, and Gomez will go to Havana.

Panama has requested the extradition of several former Noriega collaborators who sought refuge at Latin American embassies following the invasion and were granted safe-conducts over the past 18 months, but so far none of the extraditions have been granted.

The Panamanian Government says that the last four asylees are "political and not common criminals," and President Guillermo Endara reiterated today that the safe-conducts were granted although he was not in favor of doing so.

Linares, McGrath Comment

PA1105022991 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2323 GMT 10 May 91

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] After it was officially reported that the asylees had left the different embassies, Foreign Minister Julio Linares was approached by RPC television's news team.

[Reporter] "Mr. Foreign Minister, this morning you said there would be no departures. What is your opinion about the events this evening?

[Linares] "I did not say there would be no departures. This morning....[changes thought] I did not say there would be no departures. I said that you should interview the newspaper directors, who were better informed than I am.

"This morning I could not say that they would leave the country this afternoon. The reason is simple. According to international law, Panama had to guarantee the safety of these men until they left national territory. You know that the crimes some of them perpetrated are horrendous acts which provoke emotional reactions. We had to think about this." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Archbishop Monsignor Marcos Gregorio McGrath expressed his views about the granting of safe-conducts to former officials and military members of the regime.

[McGrath] "We do not have the authority to grant or deny these safe-conducts. I think it is necessary to see this within the context of an abidance by principles and the management of justice concerning all the accused.

"Isolated cases are difficult to understand. The policy should be clearly explained to the people. This, in my opinion, would help them understand and accept safe-conducts—even amnesties and pardons. [Words indistinct] the policy in which justice is more efficiently and speedily—I do not mean in a negative way—enforced. I mean that it should not be delayed so much, or else it becomes an injustice for the people involved and, in a certain way, for all of society [words indistinct] for the sake of progress."

Endara Claims Arias Tried 'Militarizing' Police

PA1105012291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0004 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara charged today that when First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon was minister of government and justice, he worked on militarizing the national police. Arias Calderon left his post in the Government and Justice Ministry one month ago when his party became the opposition.

In a letter addressed to the current government and justice minister, Juan Chevalier, Endara says that he knows "from very reliable sources" that during the 15 months Arias was in charge of that ministry, "national police officials were sent to Taiwan to receive training in Taipei military centers."

According to the president, the agents were trained, "specifically in political intelligence" (espionage). Endara noted: "This contradicts the demilitarization policy for the national police, a premise and a basic objective of our administration."

Endara also ordered Chevalier to arrange the "immediate" return of the agentes who are still in Taiwan receiving that kind of training.

Ever since the government alliance broke up one month ago and Arias Calderon and his Christian Democratic Party were removed from the cabinet by Endara, the two sides have been accusing each other of "militarism."

Article Views U.S. Role in 'Political Crisis'

PA1005202091 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 May 91 p 4A

[Article by Guillermo A. Cochez: "What Role Has the United States Played in the Panamanian Crisis?"]

[Text] For many, the U.S. Embassy's role in the Panamanian political crisis that generated the ouster from the government of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]—

which garnered the most votes so that Guillermo Endara could be elected president on 7 May 1989—remains a mystery.

Few persons believed President Endara when he arrogantly announced at the Presidency on 4 April that he would no longer govern with the PDC. The fact, which is known to those who frequently hang around the Palace of the Herons, that the president, Ambassador Hinton, Uncle Monono [not further identified], and Comptroller Carles meet religiously to share coffee, toast, and marmelade, enables the diplomat to learn about the details of palace intrigues and political goings-on created by those close to the president who, not daring to tell him that he is the main problem, made it clear to him that the departure of the PDC would begin to solve all the problems. What role had Hinton played in all of this? Nobody knows and he most certainly will not let on, denying every step of the way any participation in this ever-increasing confusion.

Others, very keenly, note that everything that happened, even if Carles painted a rosy picture, was not convenient for the United States because it was a setback in the consolidation of the country's democratic process—something which the United States claims to have invested a great deal in since 20 December 1989. The known intimate relations of the diplomatic representatives and U.S. soldiers with Ruben Dario Carles, the main manipulator of the recent political crisis, can lead others to conclude otherwise.

Since the outset of the Endara administration, it is Professor Carles who has been the real manager of foreign relations with the United States. A fact known to all is the scarce personal relationship between the foreign minister and Ambassador Hinton, who some call the U.S. pro-consul, more than anything because of his harsh manners, which are similar to those of his friend Chinchorro, whom he described on one occasion, referring to Noriega, as "the other general of Panama." Everything indicates that Carles' style of boldly carrying things out and blatantly raising his voice has caused a favorable impact of the "capable executive" style that the United States has always liked.

Panamanian-U.S. relations cannot be considered as being at their very best, particularly because our country lacks a defined foreign policy regarding the northern power. Our Foreign Ministry has not generated a consensus regarding the diplomatic problem, particularly because President Endara cares very little about the problem. When he does care, he says something contradictory to our foreign policy. The problems have been resolved as they have arisen, as was the case of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and that of the patrol boats. It is hoped that we do not have to reach the year 2000 to resolve the issue of use of the reverted areas.

The government does and says nothing about what will be done regarding all of Panama's foreign problems. To a similar extent, Mr. Carles increases his scope of action in this aspect, as in the visit to Panama by the Colombian foreign minister coordinated by him and the sabotage carried out by President Endara during the visit by the Rio Group mission to seek a solution to the problem of those seeking asylum in the embassies of Mexico, Cuba, Ecuador, and Peru.

With this perspective, there are those who wonder: Who is the U.S. chip within the government. Carles or Ford? They also ask: Why wasn't Ford in Panama during the 4 and 5 December incidents? Why had he requested the Washington Embassy post for his brother Jaime four days before the PDC left the government? Why did he go ahead as planned and host a social event with newsmen in his summer home in Coronado on 6 April as if nothing had happened? Of all these questions and many others that are floating in the air, at least one can be answered: Nobody believes the story that in the recent crisis the U.S. has played the role of mere spectator. Right, friendly reader?

Argentina

Military Leadership Cancels Announced Meeting

PY1105021891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0055 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (TELAM)—Admiral Emilio Osses, chief of the Joint Staff, officially informed the Defense Ministry tonight that a meeting of the Armed Forces leadership has been canceled due to the media's high expectations of the event.

Osses gave this information to Carlos Carballo, under secretary for defense production, since Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez is on a trip to London. Some media sectors have indicated that the commanders of the three services were going to agree at the meeting to put pressure on the executive branch on the salary situation, and this displeased the military chiefs.

The decision to "cancel" the meeting was made after the commanders of the three services—General Martin Bonnet, Admiral Jose Ferrer, and Brigadier Jose Julia—evaluated the media's reaction with Admiral Osses. The military chiefs agreed at that time to submit their suggestions through other institutional channels to avoid the "mistaken awareness" that was mentioned by some newspapers, according to a source [words indistinct].

Navy Deputy Chief Says Country 'Defenseless'

PY1105193091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1124 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] La Plata, 11 May (NA)—Vice Admiral Antonio Mozzarelli, Navy deputy chief of staff, has stated here that "Argentina is defenseless" as a result of the current economic situation which, among other things, prevents the Armed Forces from obtaining new equipment.

"This is not a crude warning but a clear message growing out of the current economic situation, which is understood by all of us," Mozzarelli said yesterday in remarks to lawmakers and journalists at the Naval Base headquartered in the Buenos Aires township of Punta Indio.

Mozzarelli said he "was very concerned over what is occurring in the Armed Forces." He said: "The situation in naval aviation and the rest of the Navy speaks for itself."

Parties Lay Foundation for Electoral Alliance

PY1205233291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 May 91 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (DYN-NA) Mar del Plata—The Intransigent Party (PI), the Group of Eight (G8), the Christian Democrats (DC) and Socialismo Autentico [Authentic Socialism] (SA) met here and laid the foundations for the creation of the National and Popular Front, an electoral alliance designed to confront the "capitalist liberal model being carried forward by this government." The new front's intention is to "organize the popular sectors in order to face up to one of the most critical moments in Argentina's history—a moment of decadence and a moral, social and economic crisis."

Company Agrees on Rehiring Plan for Steelworkers

PY1205233891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 May 91 pp 1, 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Managers of Acindar [Argentine Steel Industry, Inc.] steel company and representatives of the Metal Workers Union (UOM) agreed early yesterday morning on a plan for the re-employment of the 3,200 workers of the Acindar Villa Constitucion plant who were laid off massively on April 22.

The personnel of the firm will carry out an assembly at 11AM today to express their support for the negotiations carried out by the UOM national leadership. The agreement was reached after a marathonic session of discussions which lasted 18 hours non-stop between 10AM on Thursday and 4AM yesterday. It rules the immediate incorporation of part of the fired workers "according to the operative needs of the company," and allows for opening a register of "voluntary retirement" and the suspension of workers, who will not be re-hired for the time being but will be paid with "subsidies which are legally not taken as wages."

Production in Villa Constitucion is scheduled to start in 10 days and the accord set "a period of social peace and mutual collaboration of 100 days" in which both sides make the commitment to "carry out all necessary efforts to make the company both competitive and efficient."

The agreement's 14 points include the rehiring of workers "in a progressive manner and in accordance with the operative needs of the market." Acindar Vice-President Carlos Leone explained that "if there is more demand in the market, we will take more people, but if the size of the market remains low as it was during the last 18 months, we will have to keep many under the 'subsidy' system."

The subsidies agreed between the business and labour sector were two million australs from June to August and 2.5 million from September to November. All Acindar workers will receive 6.5 million as a compensation for wage debts.

The whole negotiation process—which covered 50 hours of talks in the last two weeks—was headed by Labour Minister Rodolfo Diaz and Labour Under-secretary Enrique Rodriguez. The UOM delegation was presided by its secretary-general, veteran leader Lorenzo Miguel, and by the head of the Villa Constitucion branch, Alberto Piccinini.

Diaz pointed out after the discussions that "a scheme of consensus" was reached between both sides, "which is what we call in legal language a fair agreement of interests."

The minister highlighted the fact that "both sides made an effort to bring their positions closer, and have lent this ministry an important contribution in search of a common solution."

Diaz said that "both the workers and the managers agreed that Acindar must modernize its methods and has to reduce the size of its personnel."

Leone considered that "we reached a solution of compromise," and expressed his hope that "the economic policy of the government can help the industrial sector grow in the long run."

Although Miguel and Piccinini said they were not satisfied with the agreement reached, "we fulfilled our first aim, which was to defend the jobs of 3,200 workers."

Bolivia

Peasants, Government Agree on Road Block Accord

PY1105151291 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 91

[Excerpt] This morning at 0400, after 13 hours of continuous negotiations, peasant leaders and government officials reached an agreement on a draft accord that may be signed at the Planning Ministry at 1130 this morning. The peasants and government officials held a lengthy, tedious meeting. The possibility that road blockades scheduled for 13 May may be lifted is still uncertain.

Attending the meeting on behalf of the government were the interior, labor, and peasant affairs ministers. The COB [Bolivian Labor Federation], the Sole Confederation of Peasants [Confederacion Unica de Campesinos], the Confederation of Bolivian Settlers, and the Federation of Coca Producers [Federaciones de Productores de Coca] attended on behalf of the peasants. There were some disagreements among the peasant delegates. Representatives of the Confederation of Bolivian Settlers wanted to immediately sign an accord with the government, while the Sole Confederation of Peasants stated that the draft must first be submitted to their rank and file for consultations.

Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno again showed his ability as a clever diplomat because he essentially solved the conflict between the peasants' representatives over the document that will be signed at 1130 today.

At the end of the meeting Radio Fides was not able to learn the contents of the draft accord because the parties agreed to keep it secret until 1130. Following the meeting, COB Secretary General Daniel Santalla said: [Begin recording] It was agreed to declare a recess until 1130 this morning so the peasant comrades could consult with their rank and file. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Police Issue Communique

PY1005231291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The National Police General Command today released a communique on the coca growers' threat to block roads.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] The communique states: In view of possible events that could violate the state of law and disturb social peace, as advocated by a sector linked to coca production which has refused to accept the dialogue proposed by the government, the National Police General Command would like to state the following: In compliance with their constitutional mission and police laws and order to safeguard the basic rights of the Bolivian people, the National Police will use all legal means to prevent any event that could disturb public tranquility, fully guaranteeing the normal development of activities to which the people are entitled.

The National Police therefore call on the people and especially the coca growers to remain calm and to fully comply with the laws of the nation to avoid punishment. [end recording]

Plan 'Unconstitutional'

PY1005233091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Minister of Campesino Affairs Mauro Bertero Gutierrez said that the government respects any disagreement in a democracy but that a roadblock would be an unconstitutional measure.

[Begin Bertero recording] It is important to reaffirm the government's position that roadblocks are measures that cannot take place within a democracy. We agree with and support any action to express disagreement within the democratic system, actions by different social sectors in the country that express different opinions. We cannot all agree. This is one of the advantages of the democracy in which we live. But we must agree that the adoption of measures that in one way or another affect the freedom of movement or transit, as specified in the Constitution, are undemocratic, and they affect other people who have nothing to do with the conflict between some social sectors and the government.

I also want to say that there are many aspects of agreements signed by the government in the past that must be fulfilled. These agreements will be fulfilled because they were accepted and signed with the seriousness that characterizes the government of President Jaime Paz Zamora. But by no means can we agree that the roads must be closed because of disagreements with

some government ideas on how to combat drug trafficking, a battle that must be fought by all Bolivians to the extent of their possibilities.

We firmly hope that these roadblocks will not take place. We want to reaffirm our spirit of dialogue and invite the peasant leaders not to do anything that could harm the peasants and other Bolivians, because Bolivian democracy definitely deserves better than that. [end recording]

New Extradition Treaty With U.S. Ruled Out

PY1005153691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2333 GMT 9 May 91

[Excerpts] La Paz, 9 May (EFE)—It was reported today that for the time being the Bolivian Government has ruled out the possibility of signing a new extradition treaty with the United States, and that it will continue to act in keeping with an accord that has been in force since 1900, and according to the Vienna Convention for cases of drug trafficking.

For more that two years the Bolivian Government has refused to sign an extradition accord with the United States for political reasons, despite the fact that drafts have been repeatedly exchanged between senior U.S. and Bolivian officials.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde today announced that the two countries will "cooperate on the issue of extradition" of drug traffickers under the terms of the 1988 Vienna Convention.

Iturralde said: "This system will supplement the extradition treaty signed in April 1900 between Bolivia and the United States." [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry sources have told EFE, however, that "a common agreement" has been reached with the United States to discard the bilateral agreement on extradition and to subject cases to the old accord and the Vienna Convention.

The sources also said that the U.S. ambassador pressured "to the last moment" the Bolivian Government to accept the treaty.

The treaty should have been signed in May 1990 in Washington, during President Paz Zamora's visit to the United States. At the last moment, however, Paz Zamora refused. According to Bolivian political sources, Paz Zamora's attitude has upset the U.S. Embassy in La Paz.

Diplomatic sources reported that U.S. officials became concerned when, during November, the Bolivian Government began to mention the possibility of resorting to the Vienna Convention to extradite drug traffickers to the United States, "forgetting" the accord that was being negotiated with Washington.

On several occasions, Bolivian high-ranking officials have reiterated that was not "the appropriate time" to sign an extradition treaty with the United States. They have never reported when that moment will be or what would be the deciding factor.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry considers the signing of the bilateral treaty to be "a personal objective" of the U.S. ambassador, who will end his diplomatic mission in Bolivia in July.

The Bolivian Government position on this extradition treaty contradicts its decision to sign a similar one with Spain on 24 April 1990.

President Orders Modernization of Armed Forces

PY1005115491 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 May 91 p 3

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has, through a directive, created an Armed Forces Study and Planning Commission to modernize the structure of the Armed Forces, adapting it to the changes that are taking place in our country and in the entire world.

In the presence of the Military High Command, military chiefs and officers of the Armed Forces, the legislative branch, and national authorities, the chief executive yesterday signed, at the main hall of Government Palace, the directive which seeks to make the changes needed to take us into the 21st Century.

The president said he is confident of what will be achieved and asked the members of the Armed Forces to jointly raise points on their institution.

The president said the government is encouraging the modernization of the state and mentioned several bills that have been approved in Congress, as well as other proposed bills that seek to achieve greater administrative efficiency.

The president said the proposal to modernize the Armed Forces came from within the institution as well as from various national sectors that were consulted by the government.

According to the president, within nine years the role of the Armed Forces must conform to modern times. He indicated that an effort must be made to focus on new legal grounds, operational points, the leadership and training of personnel, and the social situation of the Armed Forces.

The proposal has received the approval of military leaders. This approval was expressed by General Jorge Moreira, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

The presidential directive contains six subheadings that outline the future actions by the commission and the objectives that must be achieved.

The Directive signed by the president states:

"Objective—to create a study and planning commission.

I Purpose—to adapt the structure of the Armed Forces in line with the profound changes in the Bolivian and international economic, political, and social systems.

II Scope—the directive involves the Defense Ministry, the Armed Forces, the National War College, and all the military organizations and departments.

III Perspective—In close coordination with the Defense Ministry and on receipt of the current directive, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the branch commanders will form a commission made up of generals and senior and junior officers of each branch in the La Paz barracks. They will plan the modernization of the Armed Forces' structure within the framework of the current national, Latin American, and international situation and will consider the prospects for the development of the Armed Forces in the next century.

IV Specific Instructions—In coordination with the Defense Ministry and the offices of the branch commanders, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces will order, as a priority, the preparation and review of all plans and programs required by the current directive in connection with the following basic points:

a) The juridical and legal order of the Armed Forces, seeking to prepare projects on the pertinent juridical instruments for the attention of the following issues that must be considered and approved by the legislative branch or the executive branch, as appropriate.

1 - national defense.
2 - the organizational structure of the Armed Forces.
3 - personnel administration.
4 - military service.
5 - military social security.

b) The military and operational efficiency of the Armed Forces, taking into account, among other points, the following:

1 - doctrinal update.
2 - the curricula of the various service echelons.
3 - the use of excess professional personnel and the youths of draft age who do not comply with compulsory military service.
4 - the streamlining of personnel in all service echelons.
5 - the structuring of the National Intelligence Service.
6 - the structuring of the various branches.
7 - the re-equipping and upgrading of the branches.
8 - budget decentralization.
9 - the improvement of the infrastructure.
10 - the structuring of the Armed Forces education system.

c) The production for upgrading the Armed Forces and the support to national development considering, among other points, the following:

1 - productive sectors (Defense MIN-Branches-PPUU) [expansion unknown].
2 - available personnel, material, and technical resources.
3 - technical training in the various segments.
4 - the establishment of production contracts in the various productive sectors.
5 - population settlements.
6 - the conservation of the environment.

d) The psychosocial improvement of the Armed Forces personnel, envisaging, among other points, the following:
1 - improving the standard of living of military professionals.
2 - professional and residential stability.
3 - the modification of the Military Juridical System.
4 - the modernization of social security.
5 - the provision of privately owned houses.

V - Basis For The Proposal

a) The planning and programming of all the pertinent documents will be carried out in accordance with procedures and methods that the responsible commission deems necessary.

b) For all the work to be carried out, the commission will take into account the following documents:
1 - The Constitution.
2 - Supreme Decree 22407.
3 - Armed Forces Cooperation to National Development Plan (Plancodes. Defense Ministry).
4 - Plan Sovereignty (Interior Ministry).
5 - National Project (EAEN [expansion unknown] 1988-1989).
6 - National Objectives (CONASE [National Security Council] 1990).
7 - Armed Forces Diagnose (Your Excellency's Military Household 1990).
8 - Regulatory documentation.
9 - Other pertinent documents.

VI- Supplementary Orders

a) The Commission must be created by 310900-MAY-91 [date as published] and must be made up of personnel from various fields and from the three branches who will work full time until the work is completed.

b) The commission is empowered to create the sub commissions it deems necessary and solicit the advice of the appropriate professionals.

c) After it has been created and organized, the commission will have until 140900-JUN-91 [date as published] to present its general program and the general plan for the implementation of plans, establishing the work to be carried out, responsibilities, deadlines, and requirements.

d) The current directive will be implemented with the existing administrative, material, and infrastructure. It will be implemented using the normal economic resources allocated to the Armed Forces in the National General Budget.

e) The ministers of state will provide technical and personnel support whenever requested by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in compliance with the current directive.

f) Through the defense minister, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces will be directly responsible to the president of the Republic for the objectivity and punctuality of the work, and for the implementation of special professional incentives for the personnel who will participate in drawing up and implementing the work.

g) With the support of the chief of Your Excellency's military household, the defense minister will monitor and coordinate between the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the captain general of the Armed Forces, periodically reporting to Your Excellency on the progress of the work."

MNR Deputy: Drug War To Cause 'Civil War'

PY1105023291 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 30 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Deputy Ernesto Machicado Argiro, an MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] leader, stated that the militarization of the struggle against drugs implemented yesterday by the current government will unleash a bloody civil war in the country.

He added that this situation will occur in the country within the next 10 months, when U.S. military advisers conclude the training of 500 officers and soldiers of the "Manchego" Battalion of Santa Cruz and the "Jordan" Battalion of Riberalta. Machicado said the country will be facing a civil war.

Machicado also reported the existence of a militarization plan in the country, a plan to which the government refuses to admit. He said the issue was already discussed by the U.S. Congress, taking into consideration the current conditions in the country for military participation in the struggle against drug trafficking.

The discussion at the U.S. Congress was based on the concern that the militarization of the struggle against drug trafficking could strengthen military power and weaken the civilian democracy.

These are the reasons why President Jaime Paz Zamora must take the discussion of the militarization process to the National Congress. This issue is as important or more important than the matters included in the political agreement signed by the leaders of political parties represented in Congress, Machicado said.

Machicado went on to say that the U.S. Congress' decision to discuss the militarization issue in Bolivia was unacceptable and that Bolivian congressmen are not even aware of this plan, which affects the country.

The MNR leader added that the MIR-ADN [Movement of the Revolutionary Left-Nationalist Democratic Action] government coalition is acting dishonestly when it rejects or prevents the militarization issue from being treated within a legal framework; that is, by the legislative branch.

He added that the militarization process will lead to a actual siege of the coca-producing zones, followed by house-to-house raids in those areas.

Machicado concluded by saying that it is unacceptable for U.S. congressmen to vote on the lives and actions of Bolivians.

Brazil

Minister, Officers Oppose Military Agreement

PY1005161091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 May 91 p 1-4

[Report by Roberto Lopes]

[Text] "We are entirely against signing a new Brazil-U.S. Military Agreement like to the previous one (which was renounced by the Geisel Administration in 1977). I ordered a poll within the Army and the results indicate that no one, except the Army dentists who are trying to reach an agreement with the U.S. Army dentists, is in favor of the military agreement. Not one member of the Army is in favor of it."

Army Minister General Carlos Tinoco was that emphatic when, on the afternoon of 25 April, he reported to two deputies the position of the Army regarding remarks by the Brazilian Association of Defense Materiel (Abimde) which stated that the government intends to resume negotiations and sign the agreement.

The Abimde suspects that the ultimate objective of the protocol on "exchange of military knowledge" between Brazil and the United States, which will be signed by President Fernando Collor de Mello during his next official visit to Washington in June, is the signing of the military agreement. For 25 years, this agreement dominated the thoughts of Brazilian military men, supplied the Armed Forces with an variety of obsolete materiel, and prevented the growth of the national war materiel industry.

Tinoco said that he only learned about Abimde's comments in the second week of April, when he read an article in FOLHA DE SAO PAULO. The following week, the Abimde sent a letter to President Collor and ten other officials in government, military, and economic areas. The letter protested over the decision to sign the protocol.

Only four-star General Armando Paiva Chaves, head of the Army War Materiel Department, answered the letter. In a telex dated 24 April, he acknowledged receipt of the letter and said:"I am aware of the importance of the issue, which has been worrying me too."

The following day, Tinoco received the members of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for National Defense at the Army General Headquarters. He later met with Deputy Mauricio Camos (of the Minas Gerais State Liberal Front Party)—who headed the Committee—and Deputy Carrion Jr., first deputy leader of the Democratic Workers' Party at the Chamber of Deputies, who had already informed the minister that they wanted to discuss the possibility of a new military agreement. Gen. Tinoco explained to them the Army position against the agreement.

Early on the afternoon of 3 May, Carrion commented on the issue with members of the Navy Congressional Advisory Council. Navy Commander Alexandre da Silveira, a member of the Advisory Council, told him: "Look, the Navy minister will appear before the Committee for National Defense on 16 May. Please discuss the issue with him. That sort of an agreement would be horrible for us."

Minister Reviews Aims at Transition Ceremony

PY1305011891 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 May 91 Economic Section p 12

[Speech by Economy, Finance, and Planning Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira at a transition ceremony held at the Economy Ministry on 10 May]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency, Economy Minister Professor Zelia Cardoso de Mello; Your Excellency, Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana; Your Excellency, Dr. Ibrahim Eris:

After 27 years I am returning to this ministry full of civic motivation and fully aware of the challenge ahead of me. [passage omitted]

I am returning at the invitation of the president of the Republic, who has placed his confidence in me and has asked me to further the implementation of the main guidelines of his Project for National Reconstruction. [passage omitted]

No country can take the important step that will lead it to the third millennium without a long-term perspective, without a development project, and without committing itself to modernity.

It is now time to rescue hope and reassert our wish to create a new Brazil based on a broad process of social understanding. [passage omitted]

I place my confidence in the perspectives that are being opened for implementation of the four main objectives of the state reform proposed by the president of the Republic in his installation speech on 15 March 1990, which were:

1. To reinstitute the classic functions of government and to assign to the private sector the tasks it has already proven to be more skilled in performing;

2. To deregulate the economy and trust market mechanisms;

3. To dynamically and in a competitive manner insert the country into the international trade, finance, and technological communities;

4. To redefine and update our development model in order to adapt it to the radical changes being experienced in the world.

Those who are trying to interpret the current political moment as a way of reviewing government priorities should not fool themselves.

Our main objective is still to fight inflation and we will continue to dismantle the cartels that impair our competitiveness.

Simultaneously, the government will continue to play an important role in social sectors, particularly in the education and health sectors, while intensifying scientific and technological training because they are indispensable to modernization of the country.

The foreign debt will continue to be negotiated and our noticeable effort toward regional integration will be further intensified. In addition, we will continue to strengthen our mutually advantageous links with the international economic community. [passage omitted]

As the economy, finance, and planning minister, I will try to listen to the yearnings of all sectors of Brazilian society because, like the president of the Republic, I am convinced that the definition of consensual goals to achieve a reinvigorated Brazil will come from Brazilian society as a whole.

With an open mind and inspired by a very deep pride in being Brazilian, I will do my utmost to serve this great nation well. Thank you.

Economy Minister Names Aides, Confirms Dauster

PY1105181091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] The appointment of two more aides to Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira has been announced. They are Jose Carlos Fonseca, a diplomat who will serve as chief of staff; and Celso Marcos Vieira de Souza, another diplomat who will serve as executive secretary at the Economy Ministry.

Minister Marques has asked Jorio Dauster, the Brazilian special foreign debt negotiator, to remain in his post. Dauster is currently in the United States conducting negotiations on the Brazilian foreign debt.

Privatization Policy Change Said Possible

PY1105190491 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana has announced that some changes may be made in the procedures for privatizing state-owned companies with a view to removing stumbling blocks in the government's plan. Santana made these remarks after taking charge as infrastructure minister, replacing Eduardo Teixeira.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Cristina Indio do Brasil] Santana said that, together with Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira, he will discuss this issue with President Fernando Collor. Santana added that in addition to the privatization of state-owned companies, he will seek to expedite the privatization of public service concessions.

[Santana] Port services, for instance, as well as roads and railroads and some communications services because the communications area is monopolized by the state and cannot be privatized.

[Indio do Brasil] Regarding utility rates, Santana said that the objective is to continue to establish realistic rates. In his opinion, state-owned companies must make profits. He noted, however, that inefficiency will not be compensated for by increasing utility rates. [end recording]

Pinochet Arrives, Trip Itinerary Reported

PY1105152891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet arrived at Galeao Air Base in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. He is accompanied by his wife and a group of military men. Gen. Pinochet departed from Arica yesterday afternoon to begin an institutional visit to Brazil, South Africa, Switzerland, France, and, possibly, the United Kingdom.

The Chilean Government has authorized the Army commander to travel abroad on service until 5 June.

South Africa Trip Confirmed

PY1205025691 Madrid EFE in English 0146 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, May 12 (EFE)—Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet bantered with journalists and indulged in window shopping in Rio on Saturday [11 May] on the first full day of what has become a three-week mystery tour.

An upbeat Pinochet told reporters in the lobby of the luxurious Ceasar Palace hotel on Rio's famed Ipanema beach that he was only in Brazil as a tourist but confirmed that he would soon head to South Africa, on what is believed to be an arms-buying mission. Accompanied by five Chilean aides, two Brazilian policemen and a pack of journalists, the ex-dictator then strolled through Rio's streets and browsed in shops at a popular commercial center.

Quizzed about the practise of torture during his 17-year rule, Pinochet said that he had prevented civil war by taking power in a bloody 1973 coup. "Saying that torture was carried out during my regime is an illusion of the communists to hide their own activities and prejudice the image of military governments, he said.

"They say some 2,000 people died illegally during my rule but Shining Path killed 10,000 people during the same period," he added in reference to the Peruvian Maoist guerrilla group. One of his aides, who declined to give his name, said that torture took place in every country of the world and should be regarded objectively.

Pinochet, 75, refused to answer questions about the current political situation in Chile saying, "I'm a military man not a politician." When asked why he ruled for so long if he was not a politician, Pinochet answered, "Because I didn't learn anything, I'm a bad pupil."

"I'm a bad pupil," he repeated in response to similar questions from the journalists.

At one point, the general took out a small camera from his pocket and snapped the group of photographers pursuing him. The general, dressed in loose-fitting civilian clothes, was relaxed and courteous throughout the walkabout.

Pinochet arrived in Rio with his wife, Lucia Hiriart, and a group of aides on Friday night in an unmarked Chilean Air Force plane. His party was occupying the presidential suite of one of the city's most glittering hotels. It was unknown how long he was to stay in Brazil but he was expected to head for South Africa within a few days.

Meanwhile, Chilean Interior Minister Enrique Krauss said Saturday that Pinochet's trip was to last for 23 days but he did not say what other countries he is to visit. There has been much speculation in the Chilean press in recent weeks about his itinerary, with Britain, Iran, Switzerland, Japan and China all being mentioned.

Krauss said that Pinochet, who is still Army chief, was obliged by the Constitution to tell President Patricio Aylwin if he was to be out of the country for more than 20 days. The general informed Aylwin of the trip on Tuesday, Krauss said. Democratically-elected Aylwin took over the presidency from Pinochet in March 1990.

Chile

Pinochet Arrives in Brazil, To Visit RSA

PY1105015891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 91

[Excerpt] General Augusto Pinochet arrived in Brazil today as part of a visit to several countries. The South African Government confirmed today that Gen.

Pinochet will visit that country as part of his tour, information on which is being kept confidential.

The South African Foreign Ministry today released a brief communique reporting that Gen. Augusto Pinochet will visit that nation. The communique does not give the date of his arrival, saying only that the visit is private, that he was invited by an arms firm, and that his visit is in no way linked to official relations between South Africa and Chile.

A spokesman for the South African Defense Minister Magnum Malan, said Pinochet's visit is part of a tour to buy weapons. Malan added that he will meet with Pinochet and that they will visit arms factories in South Africa. South Africa has supplied a variety of equipment to the Chilean Army, especially artillery pieces.

Gen. Pinochet left for Arica unexpectedly last night. According to information from Arica, the airport was closed at noon today. It was therefore presumed that Gen. Pinochet had left on a trip to various countries, and we have just reported that he has arrived in Brazil.

There is some mystery about Pinochet's travel abroad. We were told that the secrecy surrounding his trip is for security reasons only. [passage omitted]

Municipal Elections 'Possible' in Early 1992

PY1105174691 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, has announced that an agreement has been reached with the opposition that will make it possible to hold municipal elections during the first half of 1992. Correa said the government agreed to merge the two regional and municipal proposals; the contents of these proposals will be negotiated in Congress. This agreement will expedite legislative procedures on a priority issue for the government; that is, the democratic election of mayors throughout Chile.

Minister Correa noted that this agreement is the result of meetings the government held with the leadership of the National Renewal party and of consultations with member parties and congressmen of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy.

Correa said the government is willing to merge the municipal and regional proposals in a single draft constitutional amendment and it will submit the draft of the respective laws to Congress. He said that all these issues will first be approved by the Senate. Correa added that the draft law modifying municipal income will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies for consideration. Correa disclosed the grounds for the government decision:

[Begin Correa recording] 1. That the opposition parties will favor legislation on these issues.

2. That the corresponding texts will be discussed and agreed on in Congress.

3. That the municipal elections will be held during the first half of 1992. [end recording]

Moreover, Correa said that municipal and regional reforms as well as modifications of the judicial branch must be implemented under the current government, adding that another package of constitutional amendments will be negotiated so they can be implemented by future governments.

Justice Minister on 'Political Prisoners' Pardon

PY1105165691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido has said there is no relation between those pardoned by the president of the Republic and those who are carrying out terrorist actions. He added that the president of the Republic has agreed to pardon 11 so-called political prisoners, including several individuals who were sentenced for violating antiterrorist laws. Cumplido said that a constitutional amendment allows the president to pardon people sentenced for violating antiterrorist laws. If the chief of state made this decision, it is because he is convinced that it is time to do so, the minister said.

[Begin Cumplido recording] There is no relation between the people who will be pardoned and those carrying out terrorist actions. We think that if the government does not make a decision—despite the latest events that have taken place—it will never do so. If the president of the Republic made this decision, it is because he is convinced that it is time to do so. [end recording]

Minister Cumplido added that the program of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy foresees that all those who did not commit serious crimes or kidnapped children must be pardoned.

Lautaro Youth Faction 'Terrorists' Found Guilty

PY1105171691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 May 91

[Report by Reinaldo de Rios]

[Text] In a lengthy communique, the First Precinct of the Carabineros Metropolitan Zone has reported that four members of the Youth Faction of the Lautaro Movement, who were arrested by Carabineros in Cerro Navia District on 29 April, were found guilty of some 20 crimes, including the murder of three Carabineros. The arrested terrorists were placed at the disposal of the Second Military Court.

The communique states that the day they were arrested, the four subversives were conducting propaganda at gunpoint for the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement]-Lautaro group. Police arrested Alfredo Mirino Andrade Miranda, a 32-year-old mechanic; Daniel Roberto Rojas Arquero, an 18-year-old student; Angel Patricio Munoz Soonde, a 27-year-old unemployed man; and Maria Teresa

Gonzalez Rodriguez, a 26-year-old student. They are members of the MAPU-Lautaro group and comprise a terrorist cell operating in eastern Santiago.

Alfredo Andrade Miranda, for example, led the group that held up Vegas Supermarket at 2908 Recolera Avenue in August 1990. During the holdup, Carabineros Second Lieutenant Victor de la Barra Manriquez suffered serious bullet wounds. Andrade also took part in an attack at 3610 Independence Street on 24 January 1991. As a result of the terrorist ambush, Carabineros Carlos Ricardo Araya Fe and Manuel Umberto Landa Barrera were killed.

Daniel Rojas took part in an armed attack on Santa Rosa Avenue, when the terrorists held up several stores. During a shoot-out with the terrorists, two Carabineros were seriously injured and Nazarena Torres Celio, a 5-year-old girl, was killed. This attack took place in May 1989. Rojas also took part in an attack at Eleuterio Ramirez and Alonso Valle Streets, during which Carabineros Corporal Carlos Lamoza Arce was killed. Rojas was arrested for this crime, but was released on bail on 4 February 1990.

The two other terrorists were also found guilty of several crimes, including supermarket holdups and holdups of trucks transporting dairy products, chicken, and other staples. According to the communique, the four terrorists were placed at the disposal of the Second Santiago Military Court.

Lawsuit Against Transportation Sector Dropped

PY1105181891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 91

[Excerpt] Today the government dropped the lawsuit against the public transportation sector leaders who organized the 25 April strike. Transportation Minister German Correa announced that relations with the transportation sector leaders have returned to normal and new talks will be held shortly.

Last night, Manuel Navarrete, president of the Public Transportation Service Higher Council, disclosed his willingness to resume talks with Minister Correa to discuss and assess terms of the tender for the use of bus routes. [passage omitted]

Argentine Police Officer Shoots Man at Border

PY1305021291 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] An Argentine police officer shot and killed a Chilean farmer in a confusing incident in the area of Reigonil Pass near the Argentine border in the Ninth Region.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] According to a report released by the Carabineros and information given to the Chilean Foreign Ministry, the incident involved two Argentine police whose names were not disclosed. The Argentine police entered Chile through Reigonil Pass, 88 km northeast of Pucon in the Ninth Region. The Argentine police entered Chile to arrest Chilean citizens allegedly involved in horse stealing. They informed the Carabineros office in that sector about their entrance in accordance with the 1919 Treaty, which allows policemen of both countries to cross the border to arrest people involved in livestock thefts.

The Carabineros report states that as the Argentine police were leaving the zone, they argued with Chilean farmer Eliseo Quintanahuel, 74, who lived 3 km from Reigonil Pass. As a result of the argument one of the police shot the farmer in the head, killing him. After the incident the Argentine police returned to Argentina.

[Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma] This incident was officially reported to the Interior Ministry and the interior minister contacted me. We also discussed the incident with Defense Minister Patricio Rojas. I officially reported the incident to our ambassador in Buenos Aires. The ambassador reported to me early this morning that an Argentine police officer named Opazo admitted that he was responsible for the incident. An empty shell was also found in his service weapon. The officer has already been discharged.

[Reporter] Foreign Minister Silva Cimma concluded by saying that the Chilean Foreign Ministry will study the incident to see if it is possible to request extradition of the Argentine police officer to try him in a court in Pucon, which is the zone where the crime was committed. [end recording]

Colombia

CNG, Government Talks Scheduled for 15 May

PA1105215591 Paris AFP in Spanish 2023 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 11 May (AFP)—It was officially announced today in Bogota that on 15 May the first direct dialogue is to take place between President Cesar Gaviria's government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG) after nearly six months of the most violent terrorist campaign launched by Colombian leftist guerrillas.

Carlos Jaramillo, one of the government delegates, said that practically everything is ready for the 15 May meeting with the CNG representatives at Cravo Norte, Arauca Department, on the Venezuelan border.

The CNG spokesmen are three guerrillas who have been under asylum in Venezuela since 30 April after they peacefully took over the Venezuelan Embassy in Bogota to exert pressure for a dialogue. The CNG comprises the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Army of National Liberation (ELN), and a small splinter group from the Popular Liberation Army (EPL).

On the government's behalf, aside from Jaramillo, the meeting with the guerrillas will be attended by Deputy Government and Interior Minister Andres Gonzalez.

A Constituent Assembly delegation will also attend the meeting, as will several journalists who will act as observers, in response to rebel demands. The Constituent Assembly is currently working on reforms to the Constitution.

Jaramillo said that the talks are scheduled to begin at 1000 [1500 GMT] on Wednesday [15 May] and he trusts that these talks will serve to establish the basis for a true peace process, which will probably continue abroad as per a CNG request.

Venezuela is the most probable venue for future talks. Presidents Gaviria and Carlos Andres Perez discussed this point during the Venezuelan president's official visit to Bogota this past week.

The FARC, the ELN, and the splinter EPL group are the last guerrilla groups remaining in Colombia. The M-19 [19 April Movement], most of the EPL, the Revolutionary Workers Party, and the Indian Quintin Lame group have now become legal political parties with representation in the Constituent Assembly.

Priest Says Pablo Escobar Willing To Surrender

PA1205205791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] A meeting between Father Rafael Garcia Herreros and Pablo Escobar Gaviria has created great expectation in Colombia.

Today we learned that Father Garcia will meet with President Cesar Gaviria in the next few hours and that this meeting could be the key to the surrender of the Medellin cartel's chief and to the release of journalists who are still being held captive.

Pablo Escobar Gaviria has not turned himself in because he feels that the necessary security measures do not exist. Father Garcia Herreros, who met with Escobar a few hours ago, said Escobar feels that the Itagui jail lacks the necessary security. He added that in the next few hours he will deliver a note to President Gaviria from Pablo Escobar in which he states that he is willing to surrender to face Colombian justice, but also requests protection.

Here is an interview with Father Garcia Herreros:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Based on your conversation with Pablo Escobar, do you think he will turn himself in to Colombian justice?

[Garcia Herreros] Yes, I am absolutely sure.

[Reporter] Why?

[Garcia Herreros] Because I had a long conversation with him, because he is more serious and more determined than one would think, and because he really wants peace. [end recording]

Garcia Herreros and Pablo Escobar Gaviria will meet again in the next few days. The priest feels that the journalists will be released in less than three days.

Military Detains Senator During Raids in Arauca

PA1205120091 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] The main office of the Patriotic Union [UP] in Arauca was raided this morning, as well as the CEI, the Investigation and Studies Center, and a pro-housing [pro-vivienda] branch office. Senator Horacio Betancourt was detained in the operation. The UP says that the purpose of these military operations is to try and torpedo the peace dialogue, which is scheduled for Wednesday, 15 May, in Cravo Norte.

Guerrillas Release 15 Policemen in Santander

PA1005225091 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1732 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] In Colombia, 15 policemen who had been held by the 46th front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] were released this morning. The policemen were turned over to a civilian commission somewhere in Middle Magdalena, Santander Department.

In the mountains of Cauca, the guerrillas also released two other policemen, identified as Victor Manuel Guillen Lopez and Guillermo Fernando Vasquez, to another civilian commission. The two policemen had been held by the rebels for 31 and 52 days, respectively. Both were safe and well and initially released to journalists of this city by the Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board.

The release of the policemen took place in Patilla municipality, southern Cauca Department, after a news conference was convened by representatives of the dissident wing of the Popular Liberation Army and the 8th and 29th fronts of the self-styled FARC.

The release of the two policemen in Cauca Department took place because of what the policemen called a humanitarian gesture on the part of the guerrillas national command.

* FARC Leader Views Accords With Government

* Significance Downplayed

91SM0282A Mexico City EXCELSIORinSpanish15 Apr 91 pp 5-A, 37-A

[Interview with FARC leader Ariel Carvajal by Luis Suarez; in Mexico; date not given]

[Text] Convinced that there can be no victorious short-term military solution for the government-guerrilla confrontation in Colombia, Mexico is about to be visited by a member of the Central Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) who will reaffirm their willingness to negotiate with the Colombian Government. And this at a time when Mexico is the scene of a new dialogue between representatives of the government of El Salvador and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], and Guatemala plans for a dialogue between the government of President Serrano and guerrillas banded together in the UNRG [expansion not given]. The FARC official has great respect for Mexico as a forum for such meetings and longs to see such a peace process, so often thwarted, initiated in our country. However, at the same time, he points to difficulties he attributes to Colombian militaristic sectors, both in the armed forces and the regime in power.

Consequently, Ariel Carvajal, representing the FARC, reaffirms that the oldest guerrilla force in Latin America will not lay down its arms without an agreement guaranteeing democratization and minimizes the importance of guerrilla movements that have done so: the M-19 [19 April Movement]; a splinter group of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL); the Indian group Quintin Lame; and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT). With their own forces, an estimated 8,000 fighting men (which figure the interviewed leader thinks is low) commanded by the legendary Manuel Marulanda Velez ("Tiro Fijo"), the Army of National Liberation (ELN), under the leadership of Spanish priest Manuel Perez, and the sector of the EPL led by Francisco Caraballo, the FARC are still part of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Committee which the demobilized groups left when they traded the armed struggle for politics. Together they have set forth the conditions needed in order for the dialogue to achieve peace.

Ariel Carvajal estimates the guerrillas lost 4 percent of their personnel (about 800 men) as a result of the move. When asked to be more precise, these are the numbers he gave:

"The data put out by the spoken and written media in my country gave the following figure for demobilized guerrillas: 1,000 men in arms for the M-19; 200 for the PRT; 2,000 for the EPL; and 200 for Quintin Lame, making an alleged total of 3,400 fighting men. This is the first time in history that statistics on guerrilla forces have ever been inflated for very clear political objectives."

[EXCELSIOR] In your opinion, what are the true figures?

[Carvajal] On the day of the surrender, the actual record made of the event and their own sources show that at the time of the surrender, the M-19 had no more than 200 men in arms; the PRT no more than 50. The EPL suffered the desertion of hundreds of soldiers who refused to hand over their weapons and in the end, 350 did so. Quintin Lame surrendered 100 weapons. For a total of 700 demobilized men.

[EXCELSIOR] Then how many men do the guerrilla forces have today?

[Carvajal] The Colombian Army's own statistics on guerrilla members of the FARC, ELN, and EPL, Francisco Caraballo's sector, puts the number at 8,000 men. Other unofficial figures say the guerrillas have over 15,000. In other words, those surrendering totaled 4 percent of all guerrilla personnel.

[EXCELSIOR] However, the election success of the M-19, obtained under its new banner of political struggle, the M-19 Democratic Alliance, in the 9 December 1990 Constituent Assembly election, is considered by many to be a path....

[Carvajal] Yes, that success is presented to the entire Colombian left as the real option to follow, but one has to say frankly that what we have witnessed in Colombia is a negotiation in which arms and principles are surrendered. It is on that fact that one must base one's position in a country where the dirty war has never ceased, where drug trafficking has been taken over by the government, where there are no real democratization measures, and where the armed forces continue to rule. That is not the kind of negotiation we want. The causes that led to the emergence of the guerrillas do not disappear with the regime's absorption of a few of those guerrillas. When it does occur, anyone surrendering in Colombia is killed. Carlos Pizarro Leon Gomez, head of the M-19 and its presidential candidate, was assassinated, as were Luis Carlos Galan, from the government party, and Bernardo Jaramillo, from the Patriotic Union.

According to FARC Central Staff member Ariel Carvajal, Colombian guerrillas now have over 90 fronts throughout the country: FARC, 60; the ELN (Camilist Union), over 30; and the EPL (the sector that did not surrender its arms), more than eight.

[EXCELSIOR] Why, despite the fact that you constantly state the need for dialogue and peaceful negotiation, have you not dissolved yet? Was there a possibility that the FARC, like the M-19, might become a political party or join with one of those on the left? What would FARC's conditions be?

[Carvajal] The approach followed by the previous government of Virgilio Barco, an approach continued by Cesar Gaviria's government, using dialogue as a means of demobilizing the guerrillas, ended up narrowing the possibilities of a formal political solution. We do not view dialogue as a demobilizing mechanism. The government's strategy of dialogue is aimed at demobilizing the guerrilla forces. In the 1950's, they managed to demobilize over 30,000 liberal guerrillas, but within another 15 years, new groups had taken up arms. That is the political reality in our country. Guerrillas can emerge at any given moment if the Colombian political regime is not democratized. Our position of dialogue is aimed at democratization of the political regime. We have expressed our desire to become a political party.

[EXCELSIOR] How can you prove it? By taking what steps?

[Carvajal] We tried to do so in the 1984 elections based on the La Uribe agreements made with the government (La Uribe is a region of the country in the department of Meta, where FARC had recently had set up their camps in order to engage in dialogue, camps that were attacked by the Army on 9 December, the precise day of the elections for the Constituent Assembly) in order to become a political force. We formed the Patriotic Union, but the international community saw how that legal political force was decimated: Over 1,000 were murdered. Consequently, we were forced to withdraw our representation from that open political force, that party. We have clearly maintained our decision to become a political force and expression, but in order to do so, the government must provide guarantees and make it possible. At the present time, we are moving forward on the task of building the Bolivarian People's Rally as a political expression of our organization.

[EXCELSIOR] When the Army attacked your camps in La Uribe on 19 December, it was said that FARC suffered a heavy blow. Have you been able to survive militarily with some effectiveness?

[Carvajal] What suffered a powerful blow with the attack on our camps was the policy of peace and a political solution to the armed conflict. The camps attacked were precisely the ones built in order to engage in a dialogue with government representatives. La Casa Verde, which the site was called, had been built as a symbol of political negotiation and it was precisely that site that was most heavily bombed by the regime's forces. As many newsmen in our country recognize, the Army made a terrible strategic error because those camps were not bunkers or fortresses, which do not even fit into the guerrilla war strategy that we follow. Certain Colombian reporters presented the news as the liquidation of the social headquarters which the FARC secretariat had set up for the interviews. Those camps were visited by President Gaviria himself, as a member of the committees named by the Barco Administration to initiate negotiations. It is a total fiction to speak of any resounding military blow to the guerrillas. The effect that attack had was that the guerrillas went underground deep in the jungle and the mountains.

[EXCELSIOR] It has been reported that the Colombian Army has found common graves of 40 guerrillas, claiming that they were soldiers eliminated by the guerrillas themselves. What is your explanation or response?

[Carvajal] The area where they supposedly found the graves was occupied by the Army only a few days after the 9 December attack. In other words, the Army was in the area for over five months. The Army can set up anything it wants. Our Major Marulanda said that it was a militarist provocation aimed at thwarting any efforts at dialogue in the current situation. Every time the FARC undertake a peace initiative, the intelligence services, with their organs of psychological warfare, start some scheme in order to harm and damage any possibility of dialogue or peace.

[EXCELSIOR] Is there any possibility of a military solution? Is it possible for the Colombian Army finally to emerge victorious or do you think victory is in your hands?

[Carvajal] A military solution is of interest to militarist sectors of our armed forces and the ruling classes of our country, but there are very worrisome premonitions warning the international community of the danger of civil war in our country. Santa Fe II and American strategists predict that by the mid 1990's, there will be a civil war that could make the Central American conflict look tiny in comparison. These are predictions for the immediate future of our country. We are not interested in any military solution. There is no short-term military outcome that could be favorable for the armed forces or the guerrillas. Our peace policy is precisely aimed at preventing us from getting bogged down in civil war.

[EXCELSIOR] So if there is no military solution, does this mean that Colombia and its people are eternally doomed to continual, unending war?

[Carvajal] The democratic and people's sectors have to make a very great effort so that the prospect of getting bogged down in war, which the Santa Fe Document foresees for us, does not materialize. We must understand that the strategic guidelines of the Colombian armed forces are based on texts and doctrines of low-intensity war which presume developing and subjecting our nations to lengthy, prolonged conflicts that may be "low intensity" for the empire, but which for our peoples mean sacrificing thousands of lives.

[EXCELSIOR] In the past, Mexico was the scene of talks between the government and the guerrillas. You are now in our country representing the FARC. What role can Mexico still play in a negotiated solution?

[Carvajal] We want to derive maximum benefit from the role played by the Mexican nation and its government in offering its services so that the various factions now pitted against one another in armed conflicts can find paths to peace and political solutions.

On that basis, the FARC Central Staff are grateful to the Mexican Government for providing the means and resources to make a dialogue outside the country possible. President Cesar Gaviria has long spoken of a possible dialogue abroad, mentioning Mexico as a possibility.

[EXCELSIOR] Would you accept it?

[Carvajal] In the present circumstances, this offer of the Colombian Government is somewhat demagogic because it refuses to accept direct dialogue in our country, breaking with a tradition of government-guerrilla dialogue that goes back seven years and that took place in our country. That is why, if there is a

commitment on both sides, meaning the government and the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Committee, we would be willing to engage in such a dialogue here in Mexico City.

* Negotiations With Traffickers

91SM0282B Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Apr 91 pp 5-A, 32-A, 33-A

[Interview with FARC leader Ariel Carvajal by Luis Suarez; place and date not given]

[Text] While the Colombian Government rejects the proposal of a dialogue with the remaining guerrilla forces, by refusing to accept the five prerequisites which the guerrillas say will guarantee discussions, it does, on the other hand, maintain indirect negotiations with the drug trafficking ring known as "The Extraditables," promotes confusion concerning the nature of violent confrontations—first attributing them to drug trafficking and then to the guerrillas—and takes advantage of criminal drug trafficking activity in order to keep open the so-called "sinister window" of the Bank of the Republic, which has taken in over $280 this year. In stating the foregoing, Ariel Carvajal, member of the Central Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), reveals the prerequisites which the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Committee has set before it will, in spite of everything, dialogue with the government:

- 1—The dialogue must be in La Uribe, location of the Casa Verde camps attacked by the Colombian Army on 9 December, with demilitarization of the area.
- 2—The government must be represented at the highest level.
- 3—The meeting must have an open agenda.
- 4—International observers must be present.
- 5—The dialogue must be preceded by a bilateral ceasefire.

Carvajal nevertheless repeats that if talks abroad are agreed upon and if the site is Mexico, then they may also be held.

The Guerrilla Coordinating Committee also maintains the previous proposal that an international commission must be set up comprised of former Latin American presidents and officials, proposals which, he says, have so far failed because of "the official refusal to have international representation included in dialogues in our country. We look upon this as an instrument of pressure exerted by the international community on the domestic conflict in order to achieve peace."

When Major Jacobo Arenas, the man considered to be the ideologist of the FARC, died recently, it was a "very great loss. However, he left behind many trained cadres and there has been no ideological or political weakening due to the growing prestige of our commander in chief Manuel Marulanda Velez." As evidence of the increased strength of the guerrillas, Carvajal reports that after the Army attack on Casa Verde and during the first 45 days of 1991, the Coordinating Committee executed 317 attacks resulting in the deaths of 117 officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men and 103 members of the National Police. Actions targeted some 128 special objectives, particularly American, in addition to another 39 of differing types and intensities. These resulted in the failure to use 70 percent of the helicopters, the loss of 15 helicopters in actions against Casa Verde, the capture and subsequent release of 90 soldiers by guerrillas, and the burning of 180 land transport vehicles, six aircraft and two boats, with combined material losses exceeding $200 million.

When the FARC Central Staff member was asked whether the disappearance of the socialist bloc in East Europe and the internal difficulties of the USSR and its international weakening have had a negative effect on their struggle, he replied as follows:

"It is true that events in East Europe and the Soviet Union weaken the strategic objectives set forth by democratic and revolutionary organizations. However, the facts show that due to the trend toward detente, negotiation, and a search for political solutions to conflicts in Europe and Africa, we in Latin America do not perceive of the Latin American goals of independence and sovereignty as being policies of the Americans. That is why, in the current international debate, we base our objectives on the independent and sovereign nature of our orientation and policies."

[EXCELSIOR] Are the guerrilla struggle and the fight being waged by the Colombian Government against the drug traffickers and their armed groups combined and confused? Can Colombian society distinguish between the two struggles and the violence?

[Carvajal] Confusion reigns in Colombia concerning the different conflicts witnessed by Colombian society. The guerrilla conflict goes much deeper and is far older in our country. Violence stemming from drug trafficking is of recent vintage. The government uses the media of the intelligence services to show the results of the violence as the action of drug traffickers and sometimes the action of guerrillas.

The basic cause of violence in our country is the government's refusal to open its doors to the participation of sectors other than those which have dominated political life for over 160 years under a republican form of government. It is not clear enough to enable Colombian society or international public opinion to make a distinction between the different conflicts in our country.

We are telling the international community that with the government's policies on these factors of disturbance, a policy of differentiation is being developed which at the present time is not oriented toward confrontation with the drug traffickers. Rather, it is negotiating with them!

[EXCELSIOR] How do you perceive of such negotiations?

[Carvajal] The basis for our perception is found in Decrees 2057, 3030, and 3003, which provide for a reduction of penalties and removal of the danger of drug traffickers being extradited if they agree to turn themselves over to the courts and state what crimes they have committed. We are consequently witnessing a process of negotiation and settlement with that sector in our country.

[EXCELSIOR] And do "The Extraditables" also take advantage, for their own purposes, of the existence of an armed opposition to the Colombian Government which they also are fighting?

[Carvajal] We do have authentic proof of the use of such drug trafficking sectors to fight the left and sectors of the people's democratic movement. Bache is well known to public opinion for his annihilation of democratic and leftist leaders. All of this is accomplished by resorting to alleged confrontations between the two sectors. The truth is that the connivance between the government and drug trafficker is aimed at creating a strategic alliance in order to face the greatest danger they see, namely, the development of the people's democratic struggle in our country.

[EXCELSIOR] Do you mean the government has indeed offered to continue negotiations with the Extraditables?

[Carvajal] Indirect talks are being held whose final result is the orders mentioned, which have achieved the surrender of a sector of the so-called Extraditables. At the end of last year and early this year, we learned of the surrender of the Ochoa family, presented by the Colombian news media as heads of the Medellin Cartel. In other words, we have a actual negotiating process between the government and that sector. We are also gradually absorbing the capital from drug trafficking through various tax and financial measures and, most recently, the modification of all standards that previously prevented economic management and negotiations with the dollar. It is estimated that so far this year, official banks have taken in over $280 million from the torrential flow of money from drug trafficking.

On this matter, governments have been very generous and have never declared war on such capital.

[EXCELSIOR] Why do you think Colombian newsmen are the preferred or constant target of drug traffickers?

[Carvajal] Judges, newsmen, and prominent officials have all fallen victim to the dirty war. It is very difficult to determine who are the victims of drug traffickers' fire and who are the victims of fire from paramilitary groups or killers hired by intelligence services to annihilate our country. However, it is a well-known fact that there is definitely violence from these sectors trying to make headway in our society. What we are now astounded to see is the government's generosity in its dealings.

With these facts, I want to emphasize that in Colombia there are three different negotiating processes: one which, by virtue of recent statements by President Cesar Gaviria and deemed canceled, is the process of dialogue with the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Committee.

[EXCELSIOR] How do you respond and react to that cancellation?

[Carvajal] We maintain our determination to have a political solution to the armed conflict. The second process of negotiation concluded with the surrender of the M-19 [19 April Movement], the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party], and Quintin Lame. The other negotiating process is one going on with drug trafficking sectors. The international community and our friends throughout the world can make the comparison and draw their own conclusions.

For its part, the Colombian Government has just authorized the creation of new anti-insurgent and National Police units. Both of these wars in Colombia continue to harvest victims. According to the Permanent Human Rights Committee of Colombia, there were 4,335 victims in 1990. Of these, 3,565 were assassinated, 213 disappeared, 557 died in "massacres" or collective attacks, and 338 were kidnapped. Persons otherwise affected by such deeds number 4,723. Certain specific details give one an idea of the increase in violence. For example, in 1981 there were 431 victims in Medellin, compared with 1,700 in 1975 and a total of 5,424 in 1990. In the first 45 days of 1991, there were 1,018 victims, according to data from various organizations given to us by Ariel Carvajal, who has just arrived in Mexico with the delegation from the FARC Central Staff.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Denies Comment on Dissolving Congress

PY1105220691 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
11 May 91 pp 6, 7

["Statements" by President Andres Rodriguez in Concepcion on 10 May]

[Text] "I believe that an investigation should be carried out by the courts. The judicial branch is in charge of investigating any illegal actions and punishing whoever is guilty." This was President Rodriguez' comment on efforts by a group of congressmen to create a congressional committee to investigate cases of corruption in Paraguay.

Rodriguez added that he does not want a government branch to meddle in another government branch. "That is the only thing with which I do not agree," the chief of state said.

As for the newspaper report that at a 7 May breakfast at Government House with presidents of the Colorado Party Asuncion precincts, Rodriguez had said he would dissolve Congress if such a committee was created, the

president categorically stated: "What they (the presidents of the Colorado Party precincts) say is one thing, and what I said is something else. I said that if Congress wants to pass a law affecting the judicial branch, it is not correct."

"I agree with the fact that everybody and all institutions should be interested in investigating crimes. I agree with this, but I do not agree that one government branch should meddle in another government branch's field," the president said.

The journalists told Rodriguez that the presidents of the Colorado Party precincts who had breakfast with him on 7 May said that the executive branch planned to dissolve Congress if an investigative committee was created.

"I never spoke about dissolving Congress," Rodriguez said and added: "I only said that we would not accept one government branch meddling in the area of another government branch, such as the judicial branch. We cannot accept this," Rodriguez said raising his voice to stress his statement.

The president of the Republic said that the independence of the government branches is guaranteed by the national Constitution, and he stressed that "the judicial branch has its own natural jurisdiction where it exerts its rights."

Answering journalists' questions about possible irregular procedures in awarding restoration work at the Mburuvicha Roga presidential house, the chief of state said that the decision was made through the Public Works and Communications Ministry [words indistinct] those works.

"I believe that the remodeling that is being carried out in Mburuvicha Roga should be done cautiously. We cannot publish the plans of the house of a governor for security reasons. This is why the media has not been invited to visit the house. When the work ends, we will dedicate it together," the president said.

Rodriguez also explained that the contract was awarded by by soliciting estimates through the national comptroller's office, demonstrating that there was no irregular procedure in awarding the job by soliciting estimates individually rather than publicly, which would have been more costly. He said that in order to reduce expenses, several military units were asked to help [word indistinct] the presidential house.

President Rodriguez also denied that he had charged the director of the newspaper ABC COLOR with involvement in a corruption case. "No sir, that is a lie, I said the following: We will combat corruption. When I met the presidents of the Colorado Party Asuncion precincts at Government House, I said that right now there are fuel trucks at the Boqueron gasoline station in San Lorenzo District, whose owner I do not know."

Post Office Director Resigns; Replacement Named

PY1105194491 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 May 91 p 12

[Summary] The executive branch today issued a decree accepting the resignation of Post Office Director Juan Manuel Morales and naming Hugo Piccinini Soerensen as the new Post Office director.

Peru

Minister Proposes Taxes To Pay Health Sector

PY1105164291 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona Behr has announced a monthly readjustment of fuel prices. He explained that fuel prices will be increased in keeping with the inflation rate.

During a meeting with the Senate and Chamber of Deputies Budget Committees, Bolona submitted a draft fill to modify the current national budget. He proposed the creation of new taxes to collect 432 million intis to meet the demands of the health sector and Sutep [Trade Union of Education Workers].

He also explained that public servants earning 300 million intis will be taxed at a rate of 10 percent and those who earn over 500 million intis will be taxed at a rate of 15 percent.

He submitted another bill with a proposal to froze the salaries of public servants.

Minister Views Dissolved Soviet Fishing Contract

PY1105000491 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 1 May 91 p 3

[Text] Fisheries Minister Felix Canal Torres has announced that a call will be made in June for international bids on a new fishing agreement in light of the decision to dissolve the agreement signed with the Soviet Sevriba enterprise. The agreement was dissolved on 30 April in the presence of a notary public.

Canal said the conditions imposed on foreign fishing enterprises will be completely different from those established in the accord signed by the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] administration and the Soviets. He also guaranteed that the Soviet enterprise will be replaced in less than six months.

He added that the Soviet Union is the only country that will not be allowed to participate in the bid unless it pays its $23-million debt to Peru in keeping with the agreement signed with the previous government.

Canal made this announcement during a meeting with the Chamber of Deputies Fisheries Committee, which is

headed by Popular Christian Party Deputy Pedro Carranza Lopez. He also explained irregularities committed by the Soviet vessels.

Showing the statistics on fish production, Canal said: "No favorable results have been obtained since the agreement with the Soviets took effect. There was a lack of seriousness."

He explained that the Soviets did not fulfill the agreed fishing production quota year after year.

He said: "We established a limit of 400,000 tons of fish per year, but just they caught just 163,250 tons of fish in 1989, 243,178 tons in 1990, and only 74,276 tons in the first quarter of 1991."

In response to criticism by APRA deputies Freddy Ghilardi and Virginio Carranza over the dissolution of the contract with the Soviets, Canal said that the Soviet fleet supplied just 6 percent of the fish for human consumption.

He said local fishermen will provide the fish that was supplied by the Soviets, who must also deliver an outstanding 8,000 tons.

Police Break Up Teachers March; 50 Arrested

PY1005215091 Madrid EFE in English 0551 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Lima, May 10 (EFE)—Baton-wielding Peruvian riot police fired water cannon and tear gas to disperse state school teachers holding a march in central Lima on the second day of an indefinite strike for higher wages, a union spokesman said.

The spokesman for the United Union of Peruvian Workers (SUTEP) said at least 50 teachers were arrested and six others were injured, two of them seriously, in Thursday's [9 May] demonstration.

Violence broke out when a group of demonstrators marched to the congress building and tried to force their way in to discuss their wage demands with legislators.

Peru's 260,000 state school teachers went on a nationwide strike Wednesday to press for an 800 per cent pay raise to keep up with spiralling inflation. Teachers currently earn some 55 dollars monthly.

Education Minister Oscar de la Puente has acknowledged that the teachers' demands were reasonable but has said the state could not afford the estimated five million dollars needed to meet the salary increases.

SUTEP said some eight million school children were affected by the walkout, which came as some 85,000 state health workers continued their seven-week strike over a pay dispute.

'Terrorists' Attack Police Car, Kill Officer

PY1105003691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] In a new wave of terrorist actions against members of the national police, a police patrol car belonging to the 29th Police Precinct was attacked at noon today in San Juan de Miraflores. The attack took place a few meters away from the Maria Auxiliadora Hospital. Lieutenant Aro Cordoba died from serious bullet wounds in the attack. The other policemen with him in the car also sustained bullet wounds.

According to preliminary reports, the attack was carried out by eight terrorists riding in two automobiles: a gray Nissan sedan with license plate RP1880 and a Volkswagen with an unknown license number.

Curfew Decreed in San Martin Department

PY1305034491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0206 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] Lima, 12 May (EFE)—In light of the 10 May terrorist attacks on several small settlements in San Martin Department, the Peruvian Defense Ministry has decreed a 12-hour curfew in this jungle department.

In an official communique released in Lima today, the Defense Ministry directly charges the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), which follows a Che Guevara line, and the Maoist Shining Path with fighting—"with the support of international drug traffickers"—for the control of drug trafficking operations in the Alto Huallaga River region.

According to the communique, the curfew ordered by the Huallaga military-political command goes into force throughout San Martin Department today. It adds that the curfew begins at 1800 and will end at 0600 tomorrow.

The communique confirms that on 10 May, columns of an undetermined number of MRTA members attacked the Rioja and Tarapoto settlements, clashed with police contingents, kidnapped nine policemen, and attacked essential public services in both settlements.

Articles published in the Lima papers today report that, in addition to Rioja and Tarapoto, the MRTA columns attacked the Saposoa and Moyobamba settlements, which are not mentioned in the communique.

According to a report, in addition to kidnapping nine policemen, the terrorists injured Captain Abel Yalta. In Saposoa, the terrorists injured five policemen and destroyed the police station.

The communique states that the MRTA is trying to consolidate its presence in an area that runs from the settlement of Campanilla, in the central part of San

Martin Department, to the northern part of the department, while the Shining Path is trying to do this in the area that runs from the settlement of Campanilla to the south.

It also states that both terrorist groups act "as paid assassins" and protect foreign drug traffickers operating in the Alto Huallaga region in exchange for "large amounts of money, which are used by them to finance their terrorist activities."

The communique adds that "to confuse" public opinion "about their real activities, which are linked to drug trafficking," the MRTA plans to condition the release of the nine kidnapped policemen to a Red Cross presence in the region. Thus, "they give the impression of fighting for ideological reasons."

The Defense Ministry communique states that the curfew has been declared to ensure tranquillity and order in the jungle department which, although in a state of emergency and under military control for the last five years, is still being attacked by terrorists.

Local residents reported today that the 10 May MRTA attacks were the most serious in the region in the last four years. In October and November 1987, MRTA members conducted an open offensive against San Martin Department and occupied four settlements.

The MRTA began its terrorist activities in 1984 by attacking the U.S. Embassy in Lima. The embassy was machine-gunned by a commando shooting from a park in front of the embassy.

According to report by a special congressional committee, political violence in Peru has caused the death of more than 22,000 people and damage totalling some $22 billion.

MRTA Attacks Police Stations, Power Stations

PY1305022891 Madrid EFE in English 0716 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Lima, May 12 (EFE)—Leftist Peruvian rebels have wounded five policemen and apparently kidnapped nine others in two separate incidents in an isolated northern jungle region, Peruvian television reported.

The television reports said the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerrillas on Saturday [11 May] attacked police stations in Tarapoto, Soposoa, Rioja and Moyobamba, towns located in the northern jungle department of San Martin. The reports also said the rebels attacked electric power installations in the same areas.

The clashes between police and the guerrillas lasted five hours in Soposoa and four hours in Rioja, the television reported late Saturday. Five policemen were wounded in the fighting and nine others were missing.

Other details were unavailable because of poor communication with the area where an earthquake in April and subsequent tremors knocked out telephone lines.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said Saturday he had heard reports of rebel activity in the area but was waiting for more details. "This area is plagued by drug traffickers and terrorists, but the government is taking measures necessary to eliminate the violence in this country," the president said.

More than 22,000 people have been killed in Peru since 1980 by the Maoist "Shining Path" and the smaller Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement which surfaced in 1984.

MRTA Announces Start of Armed Campaign

PY1105160091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1050 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Lima, 11 May (AFP-NA)—Official sources have reported that members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] were responsible for several attacks last night in the city of Tarapoto, in northeastern Peru, where the bombing of high tension towers caused a blackout.

The sources said that the terrorists hurled bombs and explosives at two National Police buildings during the blackout that affected the city. No casualties have been reported.

There were at least five explosions in Tarapoto, 800 km northeast of Lima, causing damage to public and private facilities but no casualties. It has been reported that the explosions damaged a power plant and several high tension tower on the outskirts of the city.

In a telephone call to AFP, an individual who identified himself as an MRTA "spokesman" said that the attacks in Tarapoto are the beginning of "armed actions and the occupation of townships" throughout the northeastern part of the country "in response to the submissive and pro-IMF policy being implemented by the government of President Alberto Fujimori."

San Martin is considered a "red zone;" MRTA guerrillas have been operating there since the mid-1980's. Peruvian and Colombian drug trafficking gangs also operate in this zone.

Venezuela

Perez Reaffirms Willingness To Host Peace Talks

PA1205002091 Paris AFP in Spanish 1905 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Caracas, 11 May (AFP)—Today in Caracas, President Carlos Andres Perez reiterated his offer to allow any Venezuelan city to serve as host for a peace dialogue between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas.

The chief of state said during a news conference that "it is not exactly that we have offered our country as host, but that if a request is made for us to host these negotiations, the same way we did it in the case of Nicaragua and in the case of El Salvador, we are prepared to comply."

"I think," he said, "that this is a kind of cooperation we have to give, and if the Colombian Government asks us to arrange for a Venezuelan city to host these talks, we would comply with great pleasure." He added: Colombian "President Gaviria already knows about this because we have already talked about it (during Perez' visit to Bogota this past week)."

Referring to people opposed to bringing Colombian problems to Venezuela, Perez said that "the absence of guerrillas in Colombia would be a relief for us." He noted: "As long as there are guerrillas in Colombia, we will inevitably have to confront border unrest (violence and kidnappings). There is no other way out."

Perez Calls FSLN 'Indispensable' to Nicaragua

PA1205002291 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1858 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Caracas, 11 May (DPA)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today in Caracas that Sandinism is a political force that is "indispensable" for Nicaragua's democratic process and economic adjustment plan.

Perez said during a news conference that Nicaragua "has suffered appalling disasters" that have affected its economy. He noted, however, that an economic adjustment plan is already being implemented there and it counts on the support of Sandinism.

He added: "We confronted the United States until we were able to convince it that Sandinism is an indispensable democratic force in Nicaragua. We also explained to the United States that 'there are no recontras' in that Central American country. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The problem now is that not all the contras have been able to obtain land, and those who have "have been threatened with expulsion by former landowners." The contras, however, are beginning to understand that they must respect the law, Perez said.

Yesterday President Perez met with Tomas Borge, one of the founders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], who, according to the Venezuelan chief of state, is very optimistic about the democratic process under way in his country.

Perez, who this past Friday concluded a four-day visit to Colombia, said that Venezuela is prepared to host the peace negotiations between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas. He stated: "We are obliged to cooperate in favor of that dialogue." He noted, however, that during his visit in Bogota, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria told him that the peace negotiations would begin in Colombia.

Perez noted that Venezuela is interested in Colombia securing peace. He argued that the Colombian guerrillas could represent a threat to Venezuela's border region.